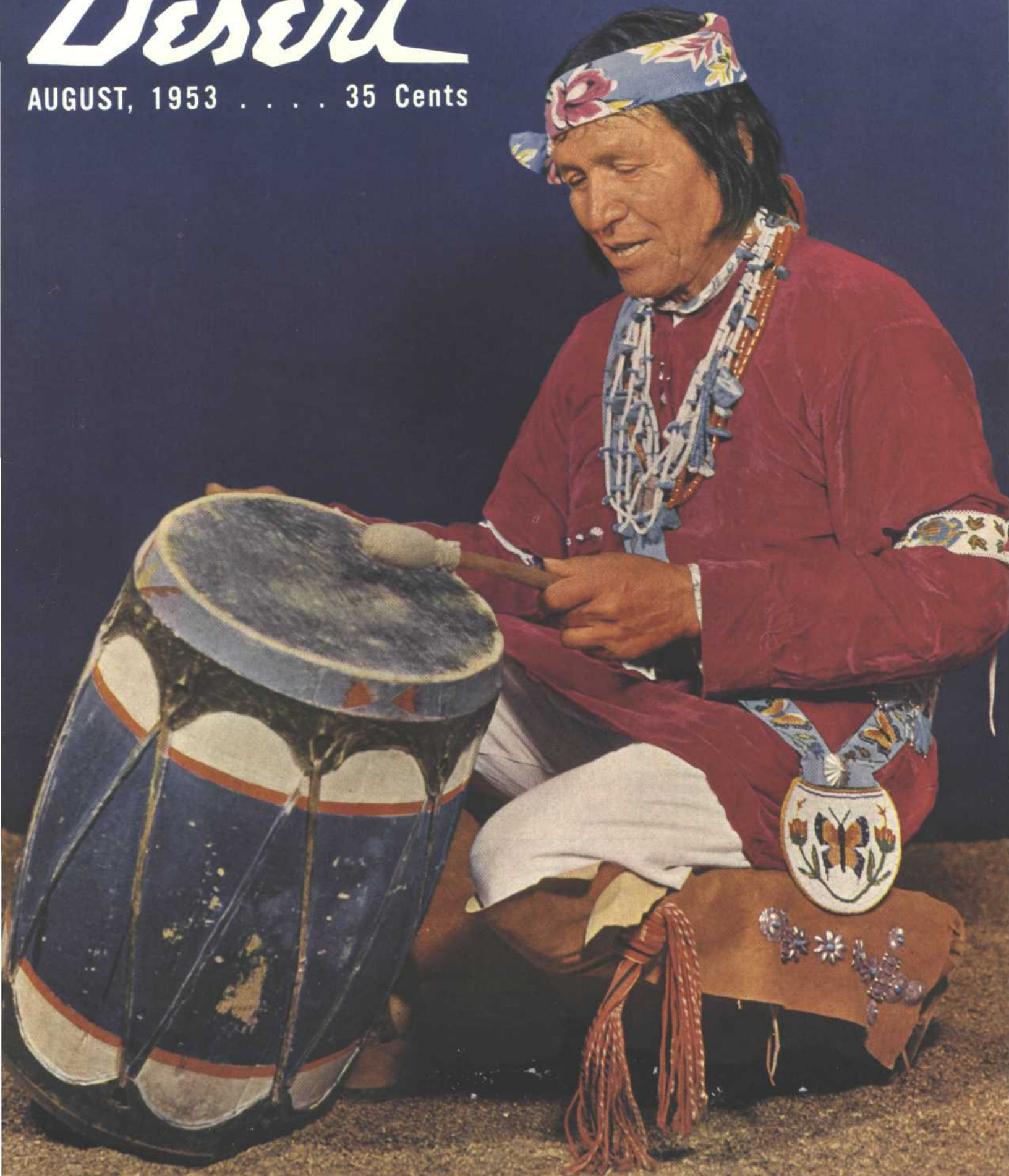


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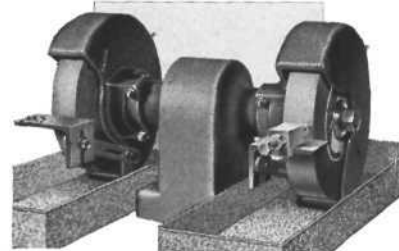
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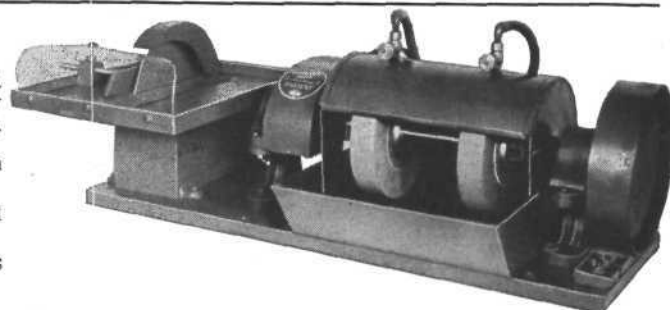
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## DESERT CALENDAR

July 30-August 1 — Black Diamond Stampede, Price, Utah.

July 31-August 1—All-Indian Festival, Winslow, Arizona.

August 1-31—Special exhibit, William Alexander Hamilton's oil portraits of Navajo Indians, Southwest Museum, Highland Park, Los Angeles, California.

August 2—Old Pecos Dance, Jemez Indian Pueblo, New Mexico.

August 4—Corn Dance and Fiesta, Santo Domingo Pueblo, New Mexico.

August 7-9—Teddy Roosevelt Rough Riders and Cowboy's Reunion, Las Vegas, New Mexico.

August 8—Smoki Snake Dance and Indian Ceremonials, Prescott, Arizona.

August 10—Annual fiesta of San Lorenzo, Picuris Pueblo, New Mexico.

August 12 — Annual Fiesta, Santa Clara Pueblo, New Mexico.

August 13-16 — Inter-tribal Indian Ceremonials, Gallup, New Mexico.

August 14-15—Annual Square Dance Festival, Flagstaff, Arizona.

August 15—Assumption Day Fiesta and Ceremonial Dance, Zia Pueblo, New Mexico.

August 15-17—Quay County Sheriff's Posse Rodeo, Tucumcari, New Mexico.

August 19-21—Cache County Fair, Logan, Utah.

August 21-22—Summit County Fair and Rodeo, Coalville, Utah.

August 22—San Augustin Fiesta and Dance, Isleta Pueblo, New Mexico.

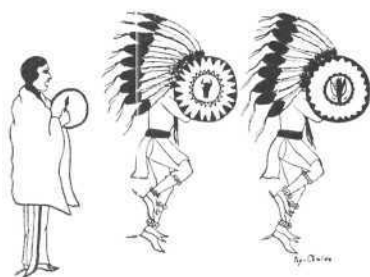
August 26-28 — Junior Livestock Show, Richfield, Utah.

August 26-28—Hereford ranch tours, New Mexico.

August 28-29—Tooele County Fair, Tooele, Utah.

August 29-September 1 — Annual Santa Fe Fiesta, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

August 31-September 2 — Sanpete County Fair and Rodeo, Manti, Utah.



### Volume 16

AUGUST, 1953

Number 8

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# *Indians from 35 Tribes to Dance in Ceremonial*

**7** THOUSANDS OF American Indians, from 35 tribes, will gather in Gallup, New Mexico, August 13 through 16 for the 32nd annual Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial.

The ceremonial is an exciting event—not only for the hundreds of Indians who travel by wagon many miles from isolated reservation homes for the four days of inter-tribal competition and fellowship, but also for the white visitor who here has a rare opportunity to see sacred tribal dances and to photograph the Indian in his most colorful ceremonial finery.

Many of the Indians will come from Southwest tribes—Navajo, Hopi, Apache, Ute and most of the 18 Pueblo tribes living in New Mexico's Rio Grande Valley. From Oklahoma will come the Cherokee, from South Dakota, the colorful Sioux.

More than 60 dances will be performed by these tribes on the evening program in the large outdoor arena. Judges will grade the performers for precision, technique and adherence to tradition. There will be special tribal rites and musical chants, athletic contests like wagon races and tugs-of-war. A parade each morning will offer more opportunity to study and photograph the Indians' costumes as dancers and musicians march through Gallup's streets, followed by Indian families in their horse-drawn wooden wagons.

The giant exhibit hall on the ceremonial grounds will contain the finest work of Indian craftsmen, for visitors' inspection and purchase. A score of the best artisans will demonstrate their ancient arts of pottery making, basketry, weaving and silver work. Each day a sand painting will be made by Navajo medicine men sifting colored sands through their fingers to create symbolic designs of brilliant color and delicate detail.

The celebration, first staged in 1922, is sponsored by the Inter-Tribal Ceremonial Association "to increase the appreciation of the beauties of Indian life, customs and traditions; to bring about a better understanding between Indians and whites, and to develop the production of fine Indian arts and crafts."

The first Gallup ceremonial was a small event, staged with inadequate facilities. Exhibits were arranged in tents; automobiles provided seats for spectators and their headlights illuminated the evening programs.

The people of Gallup struggled for many years to put the ceremonial on a sound financial basis. Even today the production is rated a success when it breaks even. Since 1939 it has received a yearly appropriation from the New Mexico State Legislature. State funds are used to develop further the ceremonial plant and to provide recreational facilities for the community.

All Indians who attend the ceremonial are admitted free to the grounds, the bleacher seats and the exhibit hall. They are given hay for their animals, wood for their fires, water and a free barbecue meal each day. Cash prizes are awarded the competitors in the various events.

The cast proper is composed of about 400 Indians. They are furnished transportation, quarters and meals, and each is paid to perform.

The ceremonial is a photographer's paradise, and visitors are urged to bring their cameras.



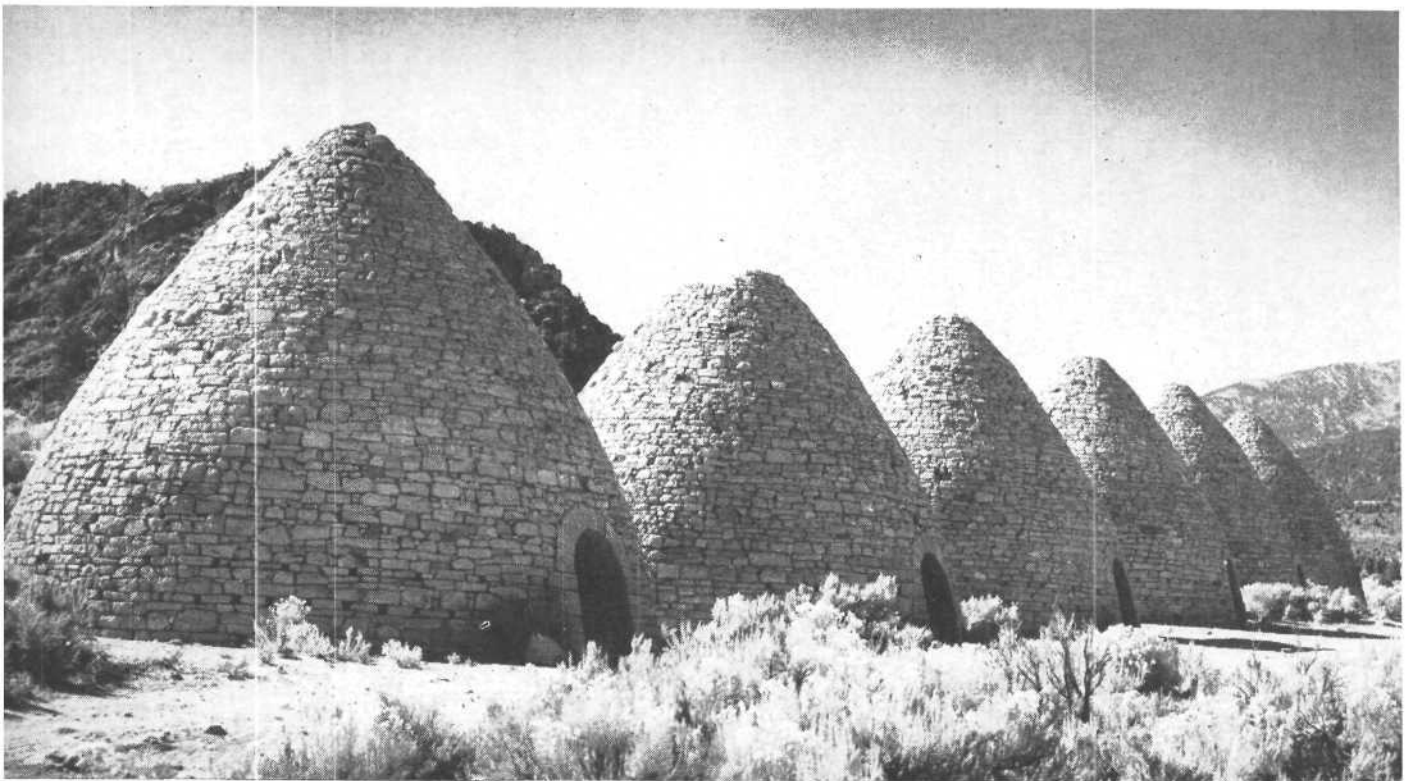
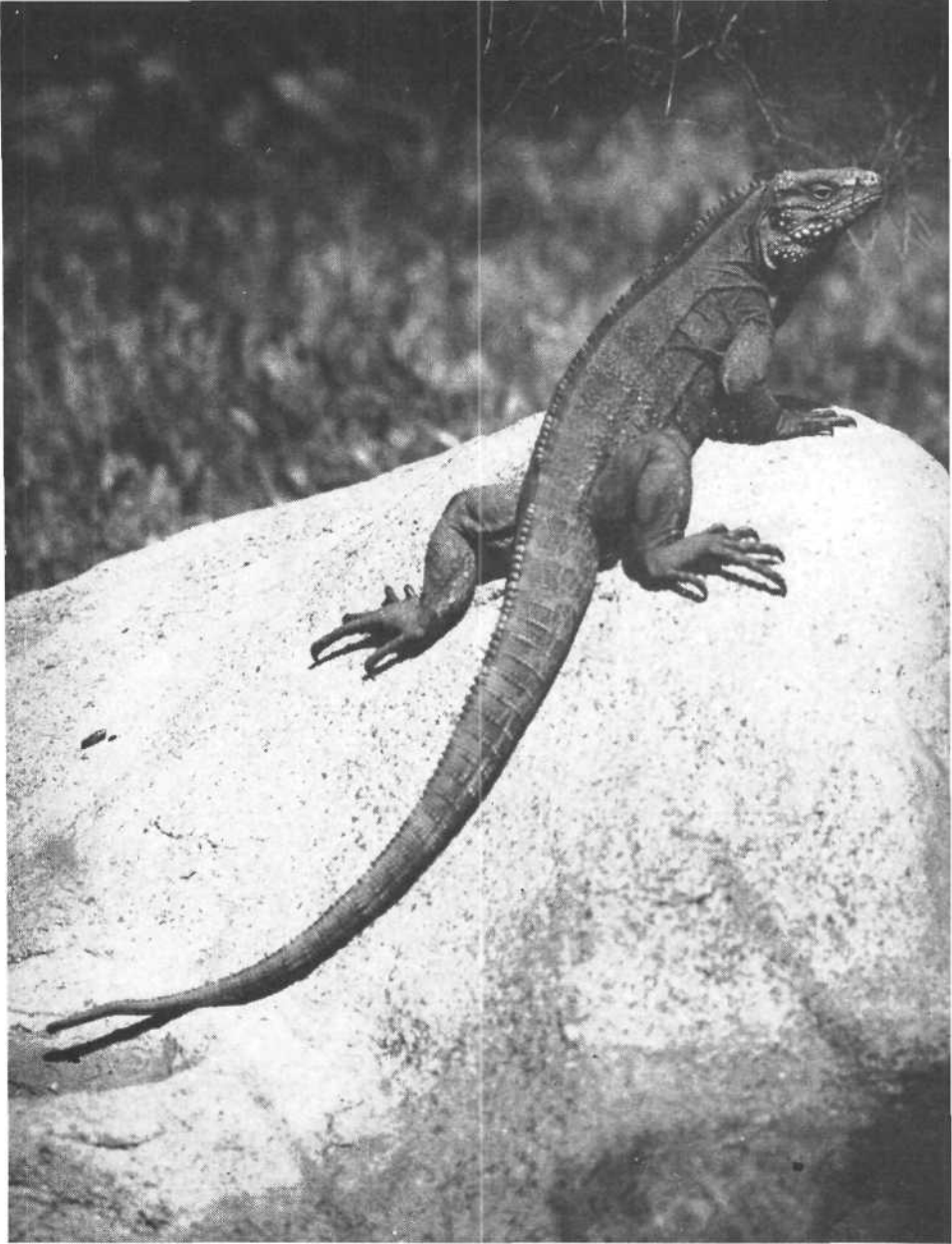
# PICTURES OF THE MONTH . . .

## *Iguana Lizard . . .*

Basking in the midday sun, an iguana lizard posed his regal profile for R. Van Nostrand of San Diego, California, who captured this fine photographic study. Taken with a Speed Graphic camera, panchromatic press type B film, 1/200 second at f. 16, it won first prize in Desert Magazine's June Picture-of-the-Month contest.

## *Oven Row . . .*

Ghost remnants of the Western mining boom, these six coke ovens stand in a canyon about 14 miles south of Ely, Nevada. Adrian Atwater of Carson City, Nevada, took the picture one October afternoon, using a Speed Graphic camera, Super XX film, K2 yellow filter, 1/50 second at f. 16, and with it won second prize honors for June.





*During the last 40 years the stick-in-the-mud hut pictured above has given way to . . .*

# Miracle in Parker Valley

By RANDALL HENDERSON  
Map by Norton Allen

**L**A TE ONE afternoon in May this year I unrolled my sleeping bag and made camp in a little clearing among the mesquite trees on the Colorado River Indian reservation 40 miles south of Parker, Arizona.

This was not strange territory to me. In 1911 as a member of a U. S. Land Office surveying party I had camped near this same spot. At that time we were engaged in establishing section corners and making 10-acre allotments to the Mojave and Chemehuevi Indians who had acquired this rich Colorado River valley by treaty with Uncle Sam.

Hoover Dam had not yet been built at Black Canyon 160 miles upstream, and much of the Parker Valley was subject to overflow when melting snow in the Rocky Mountains sent an annual flood deluge surging downstream on its way to the Gulf of California.

There were between 500 and 600 Indians on the reservation at that time, and they were an impoverished people. They were living in adobe and stick-in-the-mud huts, cooking and for the most part sleeping on the ground, and they had neither toilets nor other sanitary facilities.

They were at the low point in that transitory period through which all American Indians have had to pass. They had lost the freedom and the incentives of their carefree tribal days, and had made no progress yet in their adjustment to the white man's civiliza-

tion. With nearly 100,000 acres of the most fertile land in America at their disposal, and a pumping plant operated by the Indian Service to provide water for irrigation, they had less than 360 acres under cultivation and were living at a bare subsistence level.

I had an exceptional opportunity to get acquainted with these people and observe their living conditions for in 1912 I was employed by the Indian agent there to secure a series of photographs which were to be sent to Washington in an effort to get an appropriation to better the living conditions on this reservation. These photos were to show the complete lack of proper housing and living facilities that existed on the reservation at that time.

*This modest frame type of cottage such as may be seen today on Indian farms everywhere on the reservation.*



Fifty years ago the Colorado River Indians on the reservation at Parker, Arizona, were among the most backward tribesmen in the United States. They had lost the freedom and incentives of their carefree tribal days, and had made no progress yet in adapting themselves to the white man's civilization. But it is a different story today—as you will learn in reading Randall Henderson's story of his experience on this reservation.

I recall that I caught one snapshot of a mangy dog and a couple of chickens as they rushed in to seize morsels of food from the frying pan when an Indian woman, cooking on the ground, turned her back.

That, briefly, was the status of the Colorado River Indians at Parker in 1911 and 1912. And now I had returned after 42 years to see what change had taken place during the intervening period.

My camp that night was in a sheltered cove near the base of Moon Mountain in the southern half of the reservation. The healthy growth of mesquite jungle all around me was evidence of the fertility of this soil. I wondered if the tribesmen who owned



this rich valley would some day adapt themselves to the white man's farming methods and extract from this soil the wealth which work and water and farming know-how could bring them.

I learned the answer to that question in the days that followed. I had entered the reservation from the south, near the old ghost river town of Ehrenberg on Highway 60, and as I continued northward the length of the valley which extends for 60 miles along the Colorado River, I came first to a drainage canal, and then to fields which had been newly cleared and leveled for cultivation. Rows of cotton plants were just coming through the ground.

Then I came to a paved road, and as I continued my journey toward Parker, which is located on the mesa at the northern end of the valley, I entered an area where highly improved fields of cotton and alfalfa bordered the highway on both sides. I looked in vain for familiar landmarks, for this was a land where 42 years ago our surveyors' line wagon had followed dusty trails which wound through the mesquite, past mud huts where naked Indian children, dark-skinned women in long mother hubbards, and mongrel dogs had been the most conspicuous evidence of human habitation.

Today I found clean orderly fields of alfalfa, straight well-tended rows of cotton, and modest frame houses such as would be seen in a prosperous farming community in the South.

The agency headquarters for this reservation is on the mesa just outside of Parker, where the Indian Service has erected a group of substantial buildings with broad well-kept lawns shaded by sycamores. The superintendent here is James M. Stewart, a veteran of the Indian Service who formerly was agent for the Navajo Indians at Window Rock, Arizona. Mr. Stewart was away



*To this virgin mesquite-covered valley along the Colorado River Uncle Sam has brought . . .*

from his office on official business, but from his assistant, Orlando Garcia, and from Clyde W. Pensoneau, agricultural extension agent for the Indian office, I learned much about the affairs of these Indians.

Pensoneau is himself a Shawnee Indian, a college graduate and a fine type of native American. He combines an excellent technical knowledge of farming with a pleasing personality and a deep-rooted understanding of and sympathy for Indian problems such as only an Indian could have for his own race of people.

We sat in his office and talked about the problems involved in reclaiming the land in this virgin valley, and of transforming its Indian population in one generation from primitive tribesmen to modern farmers.

During that interview, and later on a motor trip through the cultivated fields on the reservation, Pensoneau told me about these Indians and their

achievements. There are 1,175 Mojaves and Chemehuevis now on the reservation. Indian families are farming 16,221 acres either as owners or as colonists, and white farmers are working 8,824 acres under lease.

The 10-acre allotments which we surveyed for these Indians in 1911-12 did not prove feasible, and Indian families now are assigned 80-acre units as recommended by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

While there are only a few white farmers on the reservation, they have played an important role in developing the agriculture of this rich valley. They were invited several years ago to come in and take 10-year leases under which they would clear and level the land, build distribution canals, and bring it to a high state of cultivation. At the end of 10 years they are to turn it back to the tribe in alfalfa. They also pay a nominal cash rental.

With high prices prevailing for cotton and alfalfa in recent years, this has been a good deal for the white farmers, and they also have given the Indians a practical demonstration of what good farming will do with this land. They have built a cotton gin and opened a trading post, and since their children were entitled to schooling, a school district was formed and fine modern class rooms were built here where Indian and Anglo-American children study from the same books. The Indian Service also maintains an excellent school in another part of the reservation. There are now only 14 Indians in this jurisdiction who do not speak English.

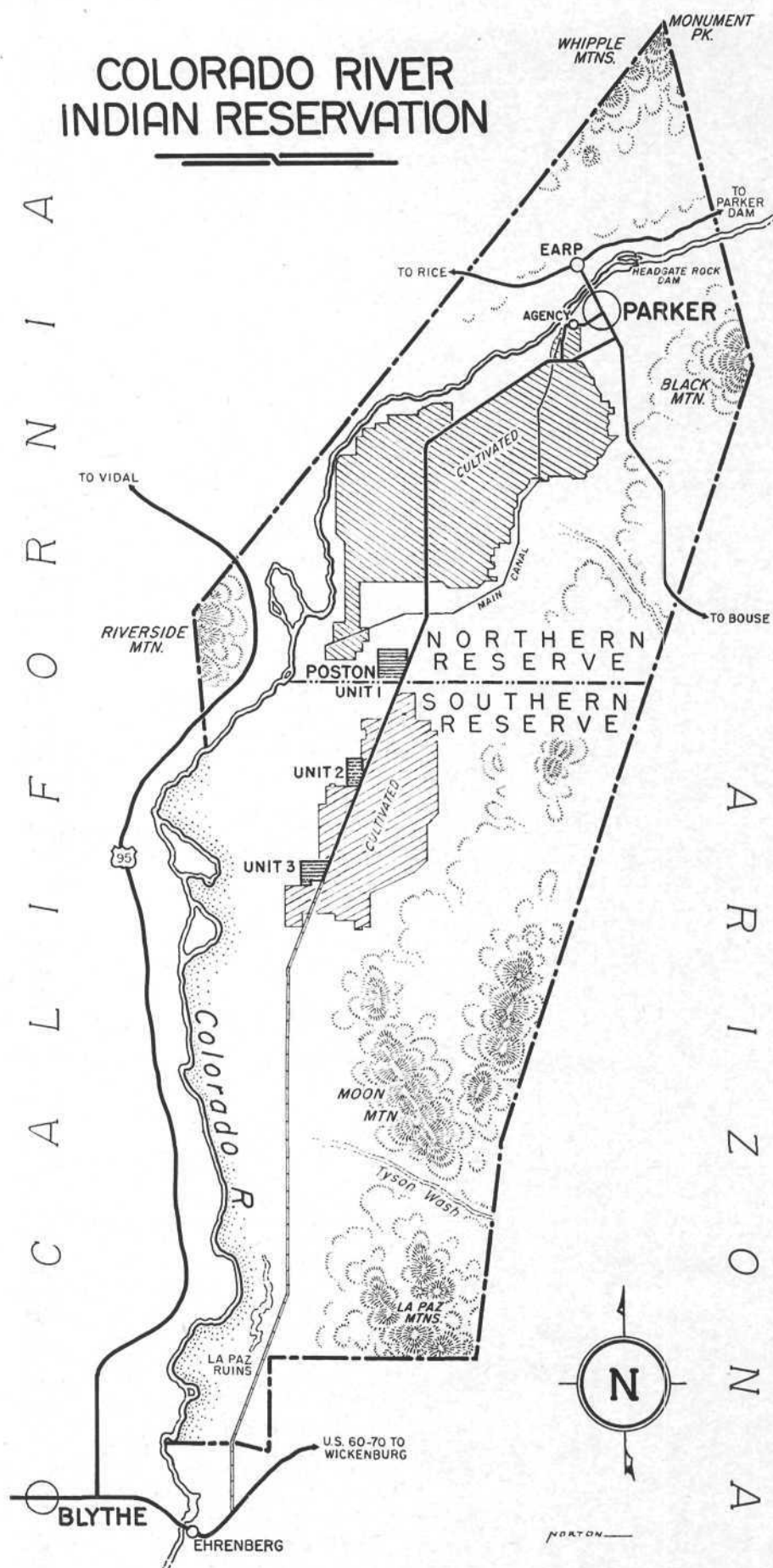
Last year the average cash income of an Indian farmer in this valley was \$4181, mostly from cotton and alfalfa, although some grain is grown.

Uncle Sam has often fumbled in his

*Water, and the Indians' industry and know-how are converting Parker Valley into one of the most productive areas in the West.*



# COLORADO RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION



dealings with the American Indians, but he has dealt generously with the tribesmen on the Colorado River reservation. In the middle of the last century when white settlers were moving westward and taking up the best lands, Congress protected these Indians by establishing in 1865 a reservation of 75,000 acres. In 1872 President U. S. Grant increased this to 240,000 acres of which 100,000 were silt bottom lands along the Colorado River. The valley is of the same character but larger than either the Yuma or Palo Verde Valleys. As a result of minor changes in recent years, the reservation now contains 265,858 acres. It is believed that some of the mesa land adjoining the valley may eventually be irrigated by pumps, as is done on the Yuma mesa.

Periodic efforts were made in the 1860s, 1870s and 1880s to provide irrigation water for these Indians, but it was not until 1913 that a successful pumping plant was installed on the bank of the Colorado to insure adequate water for a limited acreage.

Much of the land continued to be subject to annual overflow until Hoover Dam was built. Then, in 1941 the Indian Bureau completed a \$5,000,000 diversion dam at Headgate rock just above Parker to insure an adequate supply of water for the entire Parker Valley for all time.

In 1942 a Japanese relocation camp was established near the center of Parker Valley and during their confinement here the Japanese brought approximately 4000 acres under cultivation.

When the war ended and the Japanese camp was abandoned, hundreds of barracks remained unoccupied. The Indian Service has been selling these old buildings at a modest figure to the Indians and with this salvaged lumber most of the tribesmen in the valley have built comfortable cottage homes.

In addition to the farming land in the reservation the tribe has title to a power plant at Headgate Rock Dam, has gypsum deposits estimated at over 25,000,000 tons, and owns 1015 town lots in Parker. The tribal income in 1951 was \$31,777. In resources, this is one of the wealthiest tribes for its size in the United States.

But while the Mojaves and Cheme-huevis have been learning the white man's way of farming, they also have acquired some of the white man's zest for acquiring wealth. For after all, under the skin these Indians are the same kind of humans as the rest of us and since they have now prospered in a small way they aspire to move up into the big money. And this goal





*Young Indian farmers being given field instruction by agricultural teachers from the Indian Service at Parker.*

has brought discontent to the reservation. It is a rather long story:

For many years it has been apparent to all those who were interested, that the resources of the arid Hopi and Navajo reservations in northern Arizona were inadequate to support the fast-increasing populations there. Officials of the Indian Bureau saw the rich bottom land along the Colorado River lying idle and unproductive — more land probably than the Colorado River Indians would ever put to beneficial use—and someone suggested that here was a possible opportunity for relieving the critical land problem of other Indian tribesmen.

Federal representatives discussed the project with the Indians: It was proposed that the upper 25,000 acres of irrigable land in the reservation be set aside as the Northern Reserve for the exclusive use of the original tribesmen, the Mojaves and Chemehuevis, and

that the remaining 75,000 acres, to be known as the Southern Reserve, be opened for colonization by other Indians, the Navajo, Hopi, Hualapai, Apache, Zuni, Yuma, Papago and Supai.

Title to all the land would remain in the name of the original owners, but the colonists from other reservations would be brought in under a perpetual tenure plan, provided they were willing to become members of the Colorado River tribes.

As compensation to the Mojaves and Chemehuevis, the Indian Service agreed to clear, level and put under irrigation, without cost to the Indians, 15,000 acres of land in the Northern Reserve, and a similar acreage in the Southern Reserve. About 12,500 acres in the Northern Reserve already have been subjugated in accordance with this agreement.

The Colorado River tribes agreed

to this proposal and it was adopted as Ordinance Five in 1945.

A few months later an initial colony of 24 Hopi families from northern Arizona arrived in a motor caravan and moved into the barracks which had been vacated by the Japanese internees. Each family was allotted 40 acres from the lands which the Japanese had improved.

Since then, many Navajo families also have emigrated to the "Land of the Big Water" and have become successful cotton farmers. Today there are 25 Hopi families, 106 Navajo families and two Supais in the Colorado River colony, and the original 40-acre allotments have been increased to 80 acres. The federal government lends each family \$4000 to cover the cost of moving, and for the purchase of equipment and for building purposes.

More recently, however, the leaders of the Colorado River tribes have de-



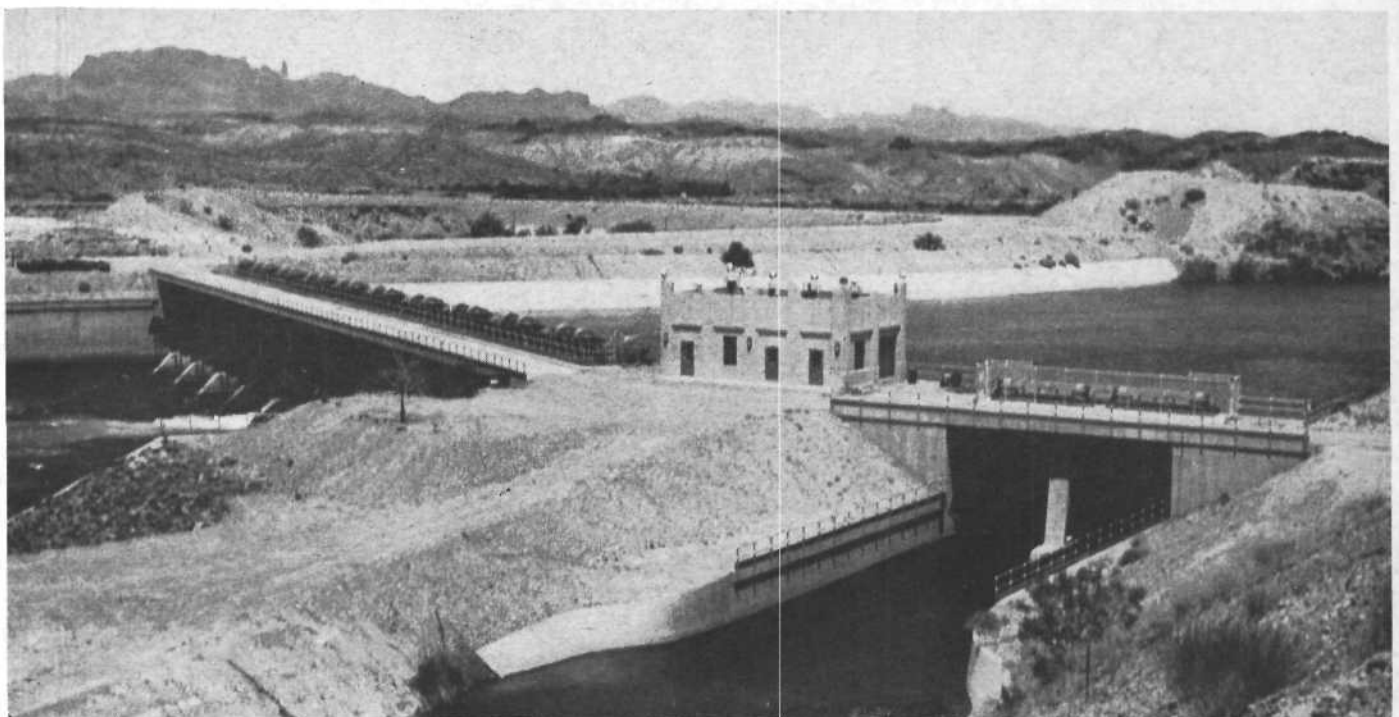
*At one of the Colorado River reservation schools Phil Premy, lower row, center, has recruited this staff of Indian students to help publish a monthly school paper.*

cided they made a bad deal with Uncle Sam, and in January, 1952, the tribal council by referendum vote rescinded Ordinance Five. They now take the

view that the entire reservation is their land, and that colonists, whether white or Indian, should pay them a rental for the use of the land.

As a substitute for Ordinance Five, the Colorado River tribes now propose that they should be allotted 35,000 acres of irrigable land, and that the

*Uncle Sam spent \$5,000,000 building this diversion dam in the Colorado River to insure irrigation water for the Indians.*





remaining 65,000 acres be leased to outsiders who may or may not be Indians. It is estimated that under such a program they might attain a tribal income of \$2,000,000 annually. The Indians have employed an attorney to take their problem to the courts if necessary.

To learn how the northern Arizona Indians felt about their Colorado River colony I talked with Albert Yava, one of the original Hopi colonists, and a leader among his people. I found Albert on a scaffold painting the interior of one of the agency houses.

"I should be down on my 80-acre farm cultivating my cotton," he explained, "but they needed painters and I learned the trade in school in Oklahoma."

"Yes, I like this land," he said, in answer to my question. "The Hopis are doing well here, and we want to remain."

When I asked him why there had been so little increase in the number of families in the Hopi colony during the seven years they have been at Parker, he explained that it was because of the attitude of the Mojave tribal council.

"Personally, they have treated us all right," he said, "but this is their land and we feel we are not welcome here. I have reported this to my people on the Hopi Mesas," he added, "and they do not think they should come here where they are not wanted. As they feel about it now, no more Hopis will come down here until they can do so with the consent of the Colorado River Indians."

Later at the agency headquarters I was told that the Navajos do not share this attitude. "There is a waiting list of Navajos eager to come to the Colorado River valley as soon as land is subjugated and ready for them," one of the Indian Service men told me.

Attorneys for the Department of Interior have taken the view that a tribal ordinance in the form of a contract cannot be rescinded without consent of both parties, and that the Colorado Indians cannot go back on the original agreement unless the federal government agrees to a revision.

And that is where the issue stands today. The attorney for the Indians was quoted as having expressed confidence that the controversy can be settled without resort to the courts.

I drove across the reservation to talk with Jay Gould, chairman of the Colorado River tribal council. Jay was a lad attending school in Fort Mojave 42 years ago when I was a chainman on the surveying crew. His home must have been one of the stick-



*Jay Gould, chief of the Mojaves, raises nearly two bales of cotton to the acre.*

in-the-mud huts I saw in the virgin mesquite jungle, for there were no other Indian homes on the reservation at that time.

Jay Gould has come a long way since 1911-12. I found him out in his cotton field riding the seat of the latest type of 4-row tractor cultivator—and a very efficient tool it is. As I talked with him I gained the impression that here was an industrious and forthright tribesman who had been selected as tribal chairman because of his inherent qualifications for leadership. The Indians were electing their chiefs by democratic processes long before the Constitution of the United States was written.

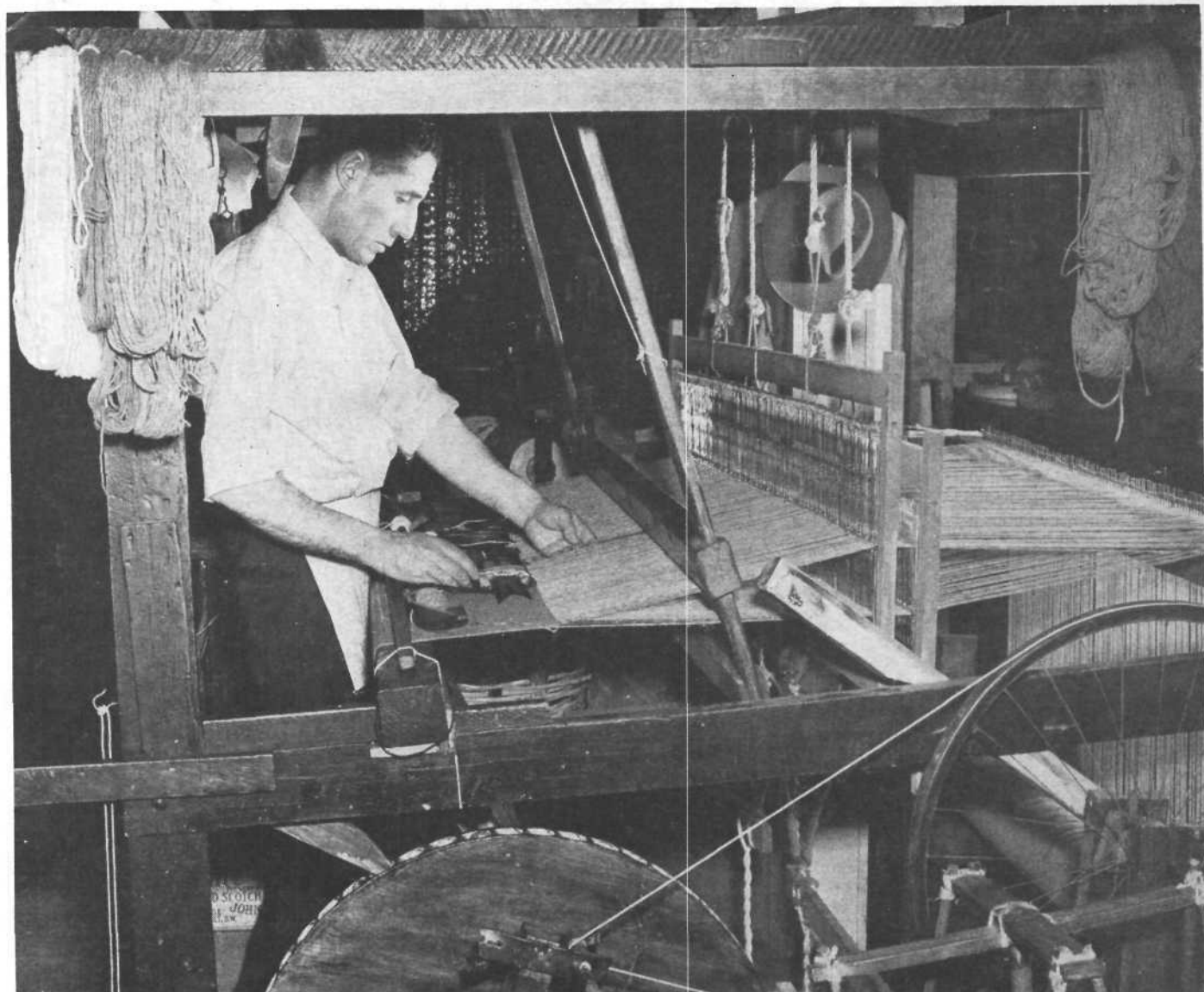
Jay told me he has 110 acres of alfalfa in addition to the 72 acres where he was working. This cotton field had yielded 132 bales the previous year—and 132 bales on 72 acres is good cotton farming on any land.

I did not bring up the matter of

Ordinance Five. That is an affair for the Indians and the federal government to negotiate. I was interested in Jay's success as a farmer, for to me he personifies the miracle that has taken place on this reservation in one generation.

### **RIO GRANDE DRIES UP MOMENTARILY IN TEXAS**

For the first time in history, the Rio Grande stopped flowing and dried away into a bed of sand at Laredo, Texas, in June. Emergency water wells were hastily dug downstream from the border city, but they provided water for little more than drinking and sanitary purposes for the 350 residents of the lower Rio Grande Valley. There was practically none for thousands of acres of irrigated vegetables and fruit. The drouth only lasted a few days. The Rio Grande is the sole major source of water for probably 500,000 persons in Texas and Mexican border areas.



*New Mexico weaver at his loom.*

# Weavers of Chimayo . . .

By DOROTHY L. PILLSBURY  
Photographs by Harold Gans

When the corn and pinto beans are harvested in the fall, then the Chimayo weavers of the little New Mexican villages around Santa Fe turn to their looms and ply a craft which has been handed down to them for many generations. They are farmers by occupation, but every one of them is an artist at heart—and the product of their looms is in demand all around the world.

IT WAS IN 1915 and in the years following that a rattling old Essex car of a vintage now seen only in the museums bumped along over the rocky roads around Santa Fe, New Mexico, with Julius Gans at the wheel. Mexican villagers driving to town in horse drawn wood wagons, called on all their saints, or cursed in explosive Spanish as their animals reared and plunged. Black shawled señoras crossed themselves and their young ones whooped and yelled. Serene faced Indians tossed their dignity aside and grinned from ear to ear. Julius Gans was prospecting again. And it was not for gold. It was for native crafts.

Julius Gans did not need to prospect. He had a highly respectable pro-

fession. In his home town of Chicago he had been a member of an eminent legal firm. When he came to Santa Fe in 1913, he became a member of a local firm equally as eminent. But the country and its native crafts bewitched him.

With four extra tires, ropes, chains, shovel, bedding and food he roamed the country. The Rio Grande Indian Pueblos knew him and his high-slung car. So did the medieval Spanish villages of Chimayó, Cundiyo and Cordova in the high mountain valleys of the Sangre de Cristo range. Chimayó, the nearest of the villages, is only about 30 miles from Santa Fe. In 1915 with roads into the village what they were, it often took Julius Gans four days to make the round trip.



Bad roads kept these Spanish villages medieval well into the twentieth century. The spread of Spanish colonization had by-passed them and later, so did America's western march. They were a Spanish version of the Anglo-Saxon Mountain White settlements in the Appalachians.

When Julius Gans' Essex hurtled into these villages, the people were living much as their ancestors had lived in medieval Spain. The older ones spoke the Spanish of Cervantes. Almost every thick-walled adobe house in Chimayó held a big handmade loom and dark-eyed men walked the treadles and plied the shuttle to make the most beautiful blankets Julius Gans had ever seen. They were finely woven and soft and light. They shimmered with desert country sunrise and sunset colors. Here was more than a craft. Here was an art and such it remains to this day.

Before long, Julius Gans forgot that he had put in many years of his life

adjudicating men's difficulties. He was buying Indian pottery, turquoise and silver jewelry and most of all he was buying Chimayó blankets woven in Mexican villages that looked like pages torn from some old Spanish romance.

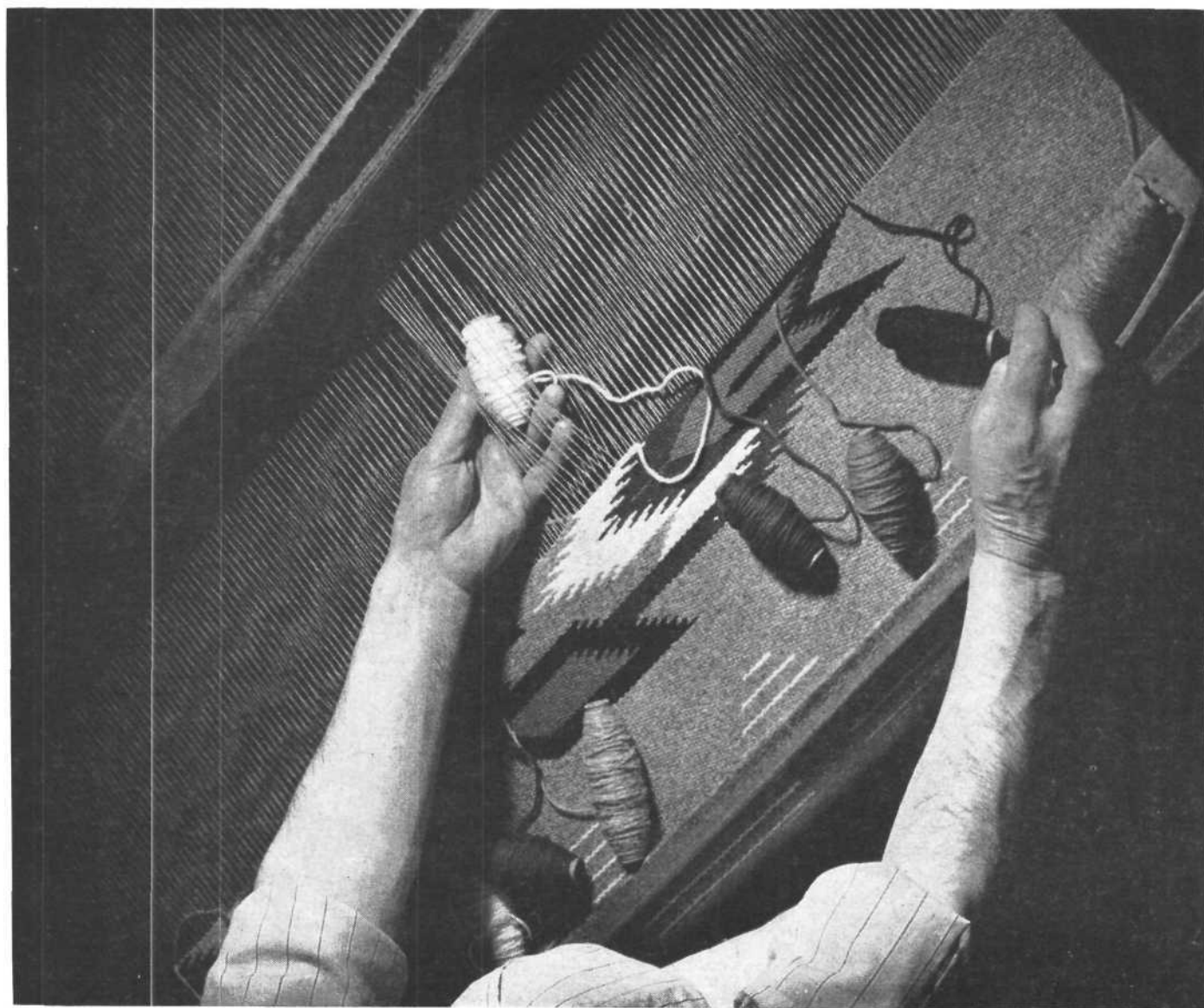
He bought so much that he had to start a little store in Santa Fe. Later, that store, the Southwest Arts and Crafts, had to be moved into larger quarters on a corner of the old Plaza where it is today. The chief reason for this need for more space was and is those jewel-toned blankets woven on hand made looms in New Mexican mountain villages. Julius Gans probably never dreamed in those early days that those same blankets by 1952 would gross \$200,000 a year.

That store was and is more than a place to buy and sell. It is an easily accessible cross-section of the region. Because Julius Gans was experienced in unsnarling human difficulties, he soon found himself in the position of

a Spanish *patrón* with the weavers. He became Don Julio. Spanish weavers who came in to leave a blanket, went out with a solution to many a village difficulty. Don Julio was never too busy to spend hours and half days listening to a villager caught in the snarl of ever encroaching American ways.

He did much more for these weaving villagers than give them advice and a market for their craft. He held that craft to high standards. In Spanish colonial days they had raised their own sheep, sheared them, washed, carded, spun and dyed their yarn with yellow from the desert chamisa, purple from the bee plant and brown from juniper bark. As time went on they bought their yarn ready to use from eastern manufacturers. To save expense, they were using cotton warp as some weavers in Old Mexico are still doing. By 1919 Julius Gans had changed this. Warp and weft had to be all wool or he would not buy the blanket. Today

*Hands of a craftsman-artist.*





*Hundreds of Chimayó blankets and no two alike.*

every Chimayó blanket is one hundred percent wool.

In 1930 an amazing thing happened in this business of surprises. A woman was employed in the store whose work it was to sort out turquoise stones to be used by the silversmiths in making turquoise and silver jewelry. She had never studied design. She had never designed anything. Her name is Ollie McKenzie. "Let me make a jacket out of a Chimayó blanket," she begged.

She made one that won instant approval. She has been designing and improving on them ever since. She is in charge of the store's sewing room where 30 girls—mostly Spanish-American—make up the jackets which Ollie McKenzie cuts out one by one. No electric cutter slashes through layers of hand woven material here. This is no assembly belt sewing room. Each girl does all the work on the coat she starts and finishes. "They are bound to lose interest if they just make col-

lars or sleeves over and over again, day after day," says Ollie.

The result is that Chimayó jackets are now worn all over the nation. They are sold in all National Parks west of the Mississippi and in specialty shops from New York to San Francisco and from Chicago to Dallas.

It is not only the women of the nation who are wearing jackets woven in New Mexican villages. Men are no less admirers of Chimayó than are their women folk. Chimayó vests are seen everywhere. Contra Costa county's mounted posse has taken prizes in parades for their costumes and horses not only in California, but as far away as Honolulu. And the outstanding feature of those costumes are Chimayó vests with a man on horseback woven into the back. One year they wear red vests and another year blue vests and they catch the eye like desert country's sunrise and sunset colors.

Harold Gans, who practically grew up with a Chimayó blanket in one

hand, a silver and turquoise concha belt in the other and an Indian bowl balanced on his head, is carrying on since his father's recent death. The big store is a sort of regional cross roads. Harold has as his secretary a girl from San Juan Indian Pueblo and he says she is the last word in helpfulness. Mingling with visiting tourists come the Indians from the Pueblos and from the reservations, and big-hatted Spanish villagers. Saturday morning the place looks like a session of the All-Pueblo Council or a *politico* rally in an adobe village. Along with the men folk come the mamás and the young ones. Spanish and two or three Indian languages are heard up and down the store's length.

Harold pointed to a highbacked bench, something like a church pew, in the rear of the sales room. "The nursing bench," he grinned. "Looks strange in front of stylish jackets destined for city boulevards, but it's a necessity, I can tell you. I don't know



how many hundreds of Indian and Spanish village infants have been fed on that bench."

Harold, like his father, Julius, has a profound respect for the honesty of Spanish weavers. For years the store has been supplying individual weavers with high grade yarn they use in their weaving. They come down from their villages and pick out the yarn in the amount and in the colors they want. Then they take it home to their adobe houses and weave it and return the finished product. If the blanket passes inspection, they are paid for it with the cost of the wool yarn deducted.

In a battered card file are dozens of sales slips for yarn made out to dozens of weavers named Martinez, Vigil, Duran, and Gonzales, and other melodious Spanish names. No weaver paid cash. No weaver signed anything. No weaver was asked where he lived. Most of the craftsmen have been bringing their work here for many years. Harold knows which ones are from Chimayó or Trampas or Peñasco. Sometimes there are close to a hundred slips in the file and often a single weaver takes out from eighty to a hundred dollars worth of wool. In the course of time, the wool comes back in a blanket and its price is deducted from the price paid for the finished product.

"In fifteen years," Harold said, "we haven't lost a hundred dollars on such transactions. Once a year I ride the range on the ones who took out yarn and haven't showed up with any weaving. I hunt around in those adobe villages back in the mountains and usually find the offender. There is generally a good reason why there was no weaving brought in. Someone had been sick, someone had gone to Colorado to work in the harvest, someone might even be languishing in the *penitenciarío*. But eventually in comes the weaving. Everything is *bueno!*"

Harold glanced at the great piles of blankets in the store, the table runners, pillow tops and racks filled with jackets and vests. "The hardest order to fill," he groaned, "is when someone wants a duplicate of a blanket he already has. No two blankets are ever alike. With some 25,000 pieces of weaving in the store, blankets, runners, pillow tops, jackets and vests, no two are alike. The weavers follow no pattern. They just dream up the design as they go along. Then they turn the half they have woven under on the big roller and do the other half from memory or a kind of sixth sense. They don't measure and they don't plan, but it all comes out right in design and color combination. When we ask them to duplicate, they are indignant. That slows them down for then they have



*Men do the weaving, but girls turn the woven cloth into jackets, table runners, vests, pillow tops.*

to measure and plan and they lose money. Furthermore, it is against their nature and their principles.

"Where do they get their designs? Out of their creative imagination as does any artist. Some of the designs show Mexican influence, some old Spanish and some Indian. Here is the Indian Thunderbird and the arrow and the symbols for rain. Here are geometric designs that might have come out of Mexico. But the total result in color and design is as truly New Mexican as a ruler edged mesa top or a cluster of little adobe houses with hollyhocks growing around them."

Harold laughed, but there was a little note of tragedy in it. "Before the last war the weavers were using an Indian symbol we later wished they had never seen. The swastika! The Indians had been using that symbol hundreds of years before that fellow,

Hitler, ever heard of it. Only the arms of the Indian symbol turned in the opposite direction from those used by 'Smells-His-Mustache' as the Navajos called Herr Hitler. Along came the war and caught us with about two hundred blankets with swastikas all over them. It was just about like sticking a knife in your pet dog to put the shears in those two hundred blankets and cut out the swastikas. But we had to do it."

The store founded by Julius Gans and his high-slung Essex is now a delightful combination of the ultra modern, the early twentieth century and the very ancient. Museum piece Indian pottery, cradle boards, old Spanish chests are displayed with racks of jackets and regional dresses bound for the big cities of the nation.

"It's more than a store," Harold mused. "It's a kind of regional center.

Dad started it with the weavers. They brought him all their troubles from lack of rain to a *vino fracas*. He advanced the money to bring their youngsters into the world, to take care of them when they were sick, to bury them. I can't fill his shoes, but I've made a name for myself as a figurer of income tax returns for the more prosperous ones. Believe me, it's a grand and glorious feeling to figure tax returns for a man who has any-

where from eight to sixteen children."

Harold confessed that he has plenty of problems to meet. One is that it is hard to get enough weaving done to fill his wholesale orders and daily retail sales. The weavers in New Mexican mountain villages are first of all subsistence farmers. From early spring until late October, most of them are busy with their rows of pinto beans, their corn fields, chile plants and squashes. Just try to get those villagers

busy at their looms! But when winter comes and snow lies white on flat roofs, then the weavers walk the old treadles of their hand-made looms. While cedar wood crackles in big iron wood stoves and red beans simmer and the scent of onion and chile fills the snug, thick-walled little house, then village weavers really go to work.

Who is going to do the weaving after this generation of weavers is gone, nobody knows. Many of the young men of the villages, back from war and foreign parts, are side-stepping the old looms. They work in a garage, work at Los Alamos, pilot commercial airplanes. Like most other humans they want things and the money to buy them.

"There's an essential quality about this mountain weaving that few people realize. It never wears out," Harold said thoughtfully. "Throw a blanket on the floor and walk on it ten years and it will still be intact. It's something like good old mahogany furniture or silver spoons. It's heirloom stuff. That's what it is, even if my dad did make a successful commercial enterprise of it."

## Desert Quiz

This monthly test is for those who wish to learn more about the Great American Desert. The questions include history, geography, a bit of botany and mineralogy, and the lore of the desert country. If you get less than 10 correct you are still a tenderfoot. From 12 to 15 is the average score of a desert rat, 16 or over makes you a Sand Dune Sage. The answers are on page 34.

- 1—Arizona's famous Camelback Mountain is seen from—Nogales\_\_\_\_. Phoenix\_\_\_\_. Tucson\_\_\_\_. Flagstaff\_\_\_\_.
- 2—The Devil's Golf Course is located in—White Sands National Monument\_\_\_\_. Zion National Park\_\_\_\_. Death Valley\_\_\_\_. Valley of Fire in Nevada\_\_\_\_.
- 3—The blossom of the ironwood tree is—Pink\_\_\_\_. White\_\_\_\_. Yellow\_\_\_\_. Blue\_\_\_\_.
- 4—Desert Mistletoe does not grow on one of the following trees—Ironwood\_\_\_\_. Mesquite\_\_\_\_. Joshua Tree\_\_\_\_. Catsclaw\_\_\_\_.
- 5—The fossil wood known as Jet is likely to be found in—Copper mine dumps\_\_\_\_. Quartz veins\_\_\_\_. Iron deposits\_\_\_\_. Coal mines\_\_\_\_.
- 6—Yucca plant sometimes is called—Soapweed\_\_\_\_. Greasewood\_\_\_\_. Sagebrush\_\_\_\_. Sandfood\_\_\_\_.
- 7—The Chimayo weaving industry is centered mostly in Mexican villages around—Cedar City, Utah\_\_\_\_. Santa Fe, New Mexico\_\_\_\_. Las Vegas, Nevada\_\_\_\_. Palm Springs, California\_\_\_\_.
- 8—One of the following Indian tribes does not have a reservation in Arizona—Hualapai\_\_\_\_. Hopi\_\_\_\_. Pima\_\_\_\_. Acoma\_\_\_\_.
- 9—The humorist, Dick Wick Hall, did most of his writing at his home town of—Yuma, Arizona\_\_\_\_. Globe, Arizona\_\_\_\_. Salome, Arizona\_\_\_\_. Holtville, California\_\_\_\_.
- 10—Hogan is a Navajo word meaning — Sheep\_\_\_\_. Mountain\_\_\_\_. Dwelling house\_\_\_\_. Ceremonial dance\_\_\_\_.
- 11—Shorty Harris, during much of his lifetime, was identified with—Virginia City, Nevada\_\_\_\_. Death Valley\_\_\_\_. Grand Canyon\_\_\_\_. Oak Creek Canyon in Arizona\_\_\_\_.
- 12—Amethyst is a violet colored — Feldspar\_\_\_\_. Agate\_\_\_\_. Calcite\_\_\_\_. Quartz\_\_\_\_.
- 13—The book, *What Kinda Cactus Izzat?* was written by—Reg Manning\_\_\_\_. Oren Arnold\_\_\_\_. Edmund C. Jaeger\_\_\_\_. Mary Beal\_\_\_\_.
- 14—The channel of the Rio Grande north of El Paso is mainly in—New Mexico\_\_\_\_. Arizona\_\_\_\_. Colorado\_\_\_\_. Texas\_\_\_\_.
- 15—Palma was a famous chief of the—Papagos\_\_\_\_. Yumas\_\_\_\_. Mojaves\_\_\_\_. Apaches\_\_\_\_.
- 16—Most of the tales about the Lost Pegleg Smith gold give the location as somewhere in — The Lechuguilla desert of Arizona\_\_\_\_. The Mojave desert of California\_\_\_\_. The Black Rock desert of Nevada\_\_\_\_. The Colorado desert of Southern California\_\_\_\_.
- 17—Barstow, California, is on the bank of the—Amargosa River\_\_\_\_. Virgin River\_\_\_\_. Bill Williams River\_\_\_\_. Mojave River\_\_\_\_.
- 18—Wyatt Earp was a frontier marshal at—Jerome, Arizona\_\_\_\_. Goldfield, Nevada\_\_\_\_. Tombstone, Arizona\_\_\_\_. Panamint City, California\_\_\_\_.
- 19—The book, *Gold, Guns and Ghost Towns*, was written by W. A. Chalfant\_\_\_\_. Mark Twain\_\_\_\_. Frank Lockwood\_\_\_\_. Edwin Corle\_\_\_\_.
- 20—The annual Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial is held each year at—Prescott\_\_\_\_. Taos\_\_\_\_. Winslow\_\_\_\_. Gallup\_\_\_\_.

## THE *Desert* MAGAZINE CLOSE-UPS

Rich Gifford's first attempt at writing paid off — with a second-prize award in *Desert Magazine's* 1953 Life on the Desert contest. His story about "Indian Charley" the rainmaker appears in this issue.

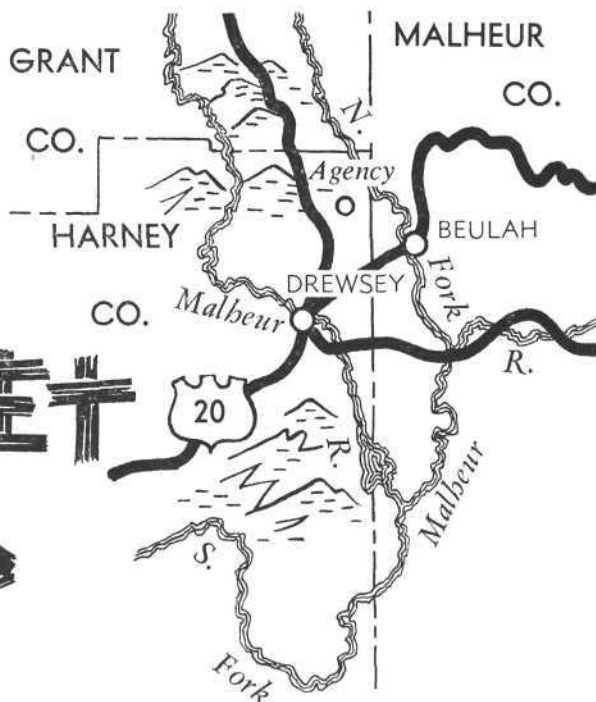
Gifford was born in Denver, Colorado, within sight of the eastern foothills of the Rockies. In 1906 his father was transferred to Durango, in southwestern Colorado, to take over management of coal mines for the Porter Fuel Company. Gifford grew up in the wide open western town populated by miners, cowmen, ranchers and railroaders.

"Shortly after I was graduated from the Durango high school," Gifford writes, "we moved to Hesperus, a lively little coal camp about 14 miles out of Durango on the La Plata River. Here I assisted my father in operating the coal mines and also ran a small general store for miners' families and nearby ranchers. I served as postmaster in Hesperus for about 14 years."

Eventually mining declined, and it was no longer possible to work the coal veins on a profitable scale. When World War II broke out, Gifford moved to Los Angeles and a job in the aircraft industry. In 1951 he returned to Hesperus to take over his father's mining interests.



# LOST BLUE BUCKET GOLD



By JOHN D. MITCHELL  
Map sketch by Margaret Gerke

**I**N THE YEAR 1845, four years before the California gold rush, an emigrant train was on its way across the great plains. Oregon, not California, was its goal — land, not gold, its mission.

The pioneers worked their way across the country with the aid of a compass. They crossed desert, plain and mountains keeping on a fairly straight course. If a mountain range stood in their way, they crossed instead of detouring around it. Finally they reached Gravelly Ford Crossing on the Humboldt River, at the present site of Beowawe, Nevada. Here they split into two parties. One party continued along the Humboldt River, while the other group struck due north by way of the Black Rock Mountains. From the latter party a strange tale originated years later.

Leaving the Black Rock Mountains behind, the wagon train came to a high mountain range. The approaching slopes were gradual, and the party managed to reach the top with all the wagons. From this high point the wagon boss got a good view of the surrounding country and took bearings on the Twin Sister Peaks. The west side of the mountain was found to be very steep. In those days lock chains were used as brakes, but they would not serve here. Heavy timbers were cut and chained to the several wagons, and in this manner they made their way down.

While the wagons were being taken down the mountainside, camp was made at a spring in the canyon below. Some of the members of the party,

gathering wood for the campfire, picked up pieces of metal that looked to them like brass. These people were farmers and knew very little about gold. They did not recognize the "pretty yellow rocks" as rich gold nuggets. The children picked up quite a few of the "pebbles" to play with. Several buckets were filled with them. The buckets, like the wagons, were painted blue.

While camped at the little spring, one of the women in the party became sick and died. They buried her near the spring, heaping up rocks on the grave, and left one of the little blue buckets hanging on a branch as a marker. After successfully crossing the mountain the little party continued on its way, unaware of the fortune swinging in the little blue buckets beneath the wagons. The emigrants had more grief while crossing the Deschutes River. The wagons capsized, the buckets were lost or their contents spilled into the water. Only a few of the little yellow pieces of metal—those the children were playing with or carried in their pockets—were saved.

The party reached northwestern Oregon, settled on homesteads and immediately undertook the task of making a living in the wild, untrammelled west. Several years later, a few of these settlers moved down to Sutter's Fort in California. Here they saw the nuggets recovered by Marshall in the mill race. The nuggets looked just like the little yellow rocks they had picked up in eastern Oregon. Eventually they obtained a few of the little stones from friends who had remained in Oregon, and showed them to their newly made acquaintances in California. They were pronounced pure gold. So much ex-

Recently John D. Mitchell, whose life-long hobby has been the collecting of lost mine and buried treasure tales, has arranged for the publication of 51 of his stories in book form on the Desert Magazine presses. This book is scheduled for release in the early fall this year. Following is one of the stories which will appear in the new book, "Lost Mines and Buried Treasures Along the Old Frontier."

citement was created by the discovery that a party of 90 persons was immediately organized to return to southeastern Oregon and search for the rich ground that had now become known as the Blue Bucket Placer.

Hostile Indians soon put a damper on the party's intentions. The outfit was ambushed, and more than half of the gold seekers were killed. Only two men who knew, or thought they knew, the location of the golden canyon survived to get back to California. These two were members of the original emigrant party. They died shortly afterwards due to hardships suffered on the trip. However, before they died they met and told a Dr. Drane of Yreka, California, the story and gave him specific instructions how to find the canyon in which they had found the nuggets.

Dr. Drane was running a store and hotel and doing some placer mining in addition to his practice, and he was loath to leave his business to travel north. A trapper from the Hudson Bay country on his way to the California goldfields stopped at Yreka. The doctor showed him some of the gold nuggets that he daily washed out in his sluice boxes. "If that's gold," said the stranger, "I know where there's a pile of it. In a steep walled canyon northeast of here are lots of those yellow stones—some larger, some smaller. A man could load two horses with all they could carry in half a day. Why, you could just pick them up right out of the streambed."

The trapper, it seems, had wintered his horses in the canyon and had found the gold there the following spring when taking out the animals. While the trapper was describing the place, the doctor recalled the story of the two sick men. According to the description, the two places were identical. The interest of the doctor grew and grew. Eventually, with two trusted friends and the trapper, he set out to look for the canyon. The trapper backtracked by the dead embers of his campfires. Not until they reached the head of Goose Lake Valley did the doctor know where he was going. From

the top of Warner Hill he could see the surrounding country and get his bearings.

The trapper pointed out the two peaks to the northeast about 120 miles away. "There," he said, "That mountain off to the right is the one. The

## Hard Rock Shorty of Death Valley



"Skeeters?" said Hard Rock Shorty. "Sure, they usta be lots of 'em in Death Valley. An' what I mean, they really wuz skeeters. Climate down here agreed with 'em so well they kept growin' and along toward sundown every day yu could see 'em flying through the air big as turkey buzzards.

"One o' them came flyin' over one day with a jackrabbit in its claws. Jest as it passed over Pisgah Bill's cabin up at his mine on Eight Ball crick it lost its holt on the animal an' dropped it. Rabbit wuz so scared it ran under the house an' if Pisgah Bill hadn't shoved some green fodder under there it'd probably starved to death.

"Then them over-sized insects got to worryin' Bill's pack animals—his string o' burros. Pisgah finally had to keep the jackasses penned up in the mine tunnel and let 'em out at night to forage fer food.

"But that couldn't keep on, fer we had to git the ore out to the railroad and bring in grub fer ourselves. Bill took along his shotgun to keep the skeeter-hawks away. Comin' back his pack train wuz loaded with corned beef and ham. 'Long toward noon he got sleepy an' laid down under a mesquite tree fer a snooze.

"While he was asleep that flock o' skeeters swarmed in and cleaned up everything in the packs. They got so full o' meat they couldn't fly good and when they came to the Funeral range they couldn't quite git the elevation an' all crashed into the side o' the mountain."

canyon lies on this side and to the north of it. That is where I put my horses out to graze. The creek runs full in the spring and is low in the fall. The canyon is level at the lower end. There is a trail into it and plenty of grass. The upper end is steep. The walls are so close together that it is about all a man can do to get a horse through."

The three men found the place just as described but were doomed to disappointment. A recent cloudburst had played havoc with the canyon. The streambed was piled high with brush, boulders, and sand. The three men looked long and hard, but not a trace of gold could they find. The doctor never doubted that they were in the right place, but then he might have been wrong. With their food supply almost gone, and being exhausted from their long search, the trio reluctantly gave up.

Some 20 or more years later, in 1879, a boy, G. S. Johnson, and a man, William Adams, were traveling across Oregon. From Malheur Lake they headed into and camped at the agency of the Malheur Indian reservation.

Adams, an old California miner, liked the looks of the rocks and formations of the country in and around the old agency buildings.

The Malheur reservation at that time was located where Harney, Grant, and Malheur Counties join. The agency was located on the southwestern slopes of the Burnt River Mountains, west of Buelah and north of Drewsey. At that time white men were not allowed to stay very long on the reservation, or to prospect for minerals.

Johnson remembered a conversation with the agent while camped there. The agent had found piles of old rotten timbers, a grave by a spring and a wide deep track down the mountain about three miles from the agency. The timbers had been used behind wagons for brakes and had cut a large swath or road down the mountainside. Over 50 years later he heard the tale of the Blue Bucket Placer and recalled the tale told by the agent.

The story of Johnson should give new hope to the seekers of the Lost Blue Bucket Placer. The price is well worth a thorough search of the locality described by the Malheur agent.

## Prizes for Desert Pictures...

Sure, it's hot on the desert. August is always a hot month. But it also is a month of glorious sunsets, when some of the most striking pictures of the year are possible. Also there are cool places on the desert even in summer—those mountain top oases like Prescott and Flagstaff. So, we are awarding prizes again in August for the best desert photos submitted in the Picture-of-the-Month Contest. Any desert subject is suitable — sunsets, cloud effects, rock formations, desert people, wildlife, rare botanical specimens—unusual pictures of any kind so long as they were taken within the bounds of the desert Southwest.

**Entries for the August contest must be in the Desert Magazine office, Palm Desert, California, by August 20, and the winning prints will appear in the October issue. Pictures which arrive too late for one contest are held over for the next month. First prize is \$10; second prize \$5.00. For non-winning pictures accepted for publication \$3.00 each will be paid.**

### HERE ARE THE RULES

- 1—Prints for monthly contests must be black and white, 5x7 or larger, printed on glossy paper.
- 2—Each photograph submitted should be fully labeled as to subject, time and place. Also technical data: camera, shutter speed, hour of day, etc.
- 3—PRINTS WILL BE RETURNED WHEN RETURN POSTAGE IS ENCLOSED.
- 4—All entries must be in the Desert Magazine office by the 20th of the contest month.
- 5—Contests are open to both amateur and professional photographers. Desert Magazine requires first publication rights only of prize winning pictures.
- 6—Time and place of photograph are immaterial, except that it must be from the desert Southwest.
- 7—Judges will be selected from Desert's editorial staff, and awards will be made immediately after the close of the contest each month.

Address All Entries to Photo Editor

*The Desert Magazine*

PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA



## SECOND PRIZE WINNING STORY IN DESERT'S 1953 LIFE-ON-THE-DESERT CONTEST

# LIFE ON THE DESERT

By RICH GIFFORD

Here is an amazing story about the rain making magic of an Indian Medicine Man. All the known facts are given in this manuscript. You may draw your own conclusions as to the answer to this strange riddle.

This headline caught my interest—  
*Rain Making to Receive Scientific  
Analysis of U. S. Weather Bureau*

As I read the article my mind went back 35 years to the day when I first saw Indian Charley, Indian Medicine Man and Rain Maker.

I was alone in the store. It was too hot for customers. The sun blazed down from a cloudless, indigo Colorado sky. Even the deep dust of the road lay quiet in the stifling stillness of that late August afternoon.

The green of the hills had turned to a dust-covered grey. The La Plata River was a mere lazy trickle in the patchwork of sun and shade. The cottonwoods along its banks looked thirsty and dejected. Crops lay parched and dry in the fields. There was not enough water in the river for irrigation. There had been no relieving rain for almost two months. If moisture did not come soon, there would be no crops to harvest in the fall. And in this isolated community, the storage of those crops for the long winter ahead was almost life itself.

Then out of the blue haze from the south he rode. At first just a restless cloud of dust, slowly moving up the road. Faintly, the figure of a man and a horse appeared. Dust stirred lazily as they picked their way slowly up the road. Gradually there emerged from the haze and dust the figure of a huge man astride a pinto pony made small by comparison with its rider's bulk. They came on jogging slowly through the heat. As they passed the store and turned down toward the river, I could see that the rider was an Indian.

As I watched them curiously, he dismounted, slipped the saddle and bridle from the horse, and threw them under a tree. With a rope he staked the pony out where it could reach the water and the yet green grass along the river bank. Only then did he turn and make his unhurried way back to the store.

Indians were common visitors in those days, but I could not remember having seen this one before. He was a larger man than any I had met. He was better dressed, more prosperous looking than most of the Indians in the vicinity. And he was more at ease and more friendly than most, with a pleasant smile, and in his eyes was a glint of humor.

In his ears, on his arms, around his

neck, on his fingers, on his clothes, and bulging from his pockets was jewelry. Indian jewelry of hammered silver and beautiful blue and green turquoise. With a grunt of greeting, he installed himself on the porch of the store and spread out his wares for all our world to see and admire.

The hot afternoon wore on. Charley sat there and offered his wares to all who came by. Some of the old timers knew him and stopped to say hello. Tourists stopped to admire his collection and buy souvenirs. Only when the sun had dropped over the western hills, did Charley move. Then he went back down to the river where his pony was tethered, and soon the dusk was pierced by the tiny pinpoint of his flickering camp fire.

In a short time, the embers of the little fire died out and Charley and his pony shared a resting place beneath the cottonwoods, under the open sky.

Every morning Charley brought his display back to the porch of the store and each night his fire could be seen through the trees down by the river bank.

And then one morning, Charley and his little pony were gone. Only the dead ashes of the deserted camp fire showed where they had been. The old timers nodded knowingly. "There'll be rain soon," they said. But the blazing sun shown down out of a bright, blue, cloudless sky, and it seemed even hotter, even drier.

Two days had passed since Charley had moved on, and still no rain. The sun sank sharp, clear, and burning hot in the west.

Suddenly, in the middle of the night, I was awakened by the soft patter of rain on the roof and the steady drip, drip of water from the eaves. And the next morning it was still raining. Softly, gently, but steadily. The skies were gray as yesterday's dust, which was rapidly becoming a sea of mud. But our world was again fresh and hopeful.

Through the rain, Charley came riding down out of the hills. He was soaked to the skin. His pinto pony was wet and bedraggled, and its tiny feet splashed through the mud. They should have looked depressed, but they didn't. There was an air of pride and triumph in the way the pony daintily picked its way through the puddles and in the way Charley rode.

Charley waved as he passed, and he smiled exultantly, but he kept right on riding. No time for trading now. He was riding south to his home, and to his friends—and to collect his fees. For as he made his triumphal way down through the valleys and canyons, he would stop at each Indian home. He would be entertained, praised and given presents. He would receive more jewelry to hang about his person and to bulge his pockets.

Because once again, Indian Charley, their Medicine Man, had made strong medicine to their gods, and those gods had smiled on him. They had sent the life-giving moisture in answer to his prayers. The crops would mature this fall, and there would be plenty in the store rooms for the winter ahead. Indian Charley had once more brought the rains.

This was my first meeting and first experience with Indian Charley, the Rain Maker. But through the years to come I was to look forward to his coming and to his bringing the fall rain. Not always did we have the burning dry spell in the autumn, and not always was Charley called upon to make rain. But, more frequently than not, July and August were blistering and arid, and when that happened, Charley would come riding out of the south, his immense bulk dwarfing his little Indian pony, a confident smile on his face, and loads of jewelry to be shown and sold.

Always, a few days of trading and visiting, and Charley and his pinto would quietly disappear into the hills. Where? No one ever knew. But always, within 24 to 48 hours, he would ride back out of the hills, drenched with rain and triumphant.

Many an argument waged about the pot-bellied stove those long winter evenings. Was Charley a Rain Maker? Or did he just know his weather signs? Was his stop for trading just a pause to wait for the signs to be right? Or was it just a part of his routine? Or did he really believe in his strong medicine? And in its power to sway his gods into sending the rain? These questions were never settled to my knowledge. But the old timers and the Indians were willing to leave the questions unanswered. They knew that when Charley rode into the hills, the rains were on their way.



*South Pass City on Willow Creek. The Carissa mine is on the hill in the background.*

## *Historic Pass in the Wind River Country....*

Mountain Men, gold-seekers, Mormons, westbound colonists—all of them in years past have followed the old trail through the Continental Divide at South Pass, Wyoming. Today the old wagon road is paralleled in many places by a modern paved highway—and many of the motorists who follow this historic route today are in search of the gemstone cutting material of which Wyoming has a great abundance. Here is a field trip story that includes some interesting sidelights on the history of the great American westward trek.

By JAY ELLIS RANSOM

Photographs by the author

Map by Norton Allen

**I**T WAS LATE at night when I first met Fred Stratton, ex-newspaperman, rock collector, storekeeper and postmaster at South Pass City, Wyoming. Frances and I had arrived in South Pass looking for accommodations for the night.

Since the only light was in the South Pass Trading Company's store, I entered, and found myself in a typical frontier trading post—crude plank shelves piled high with food and clothing, and pots, pans, hardware, snow-

shoes and kerosene lamps hanging from pegs in the walls.

Hearing me, Fred Stratton, in denim shirt and levis, stuck his head out of a back room. "Hello," I said. "How's chances to find accommodations for my wife and myself?"

He came out, all six feet of him, sandy haired, his blue eyes twinkling in the light of a 40-watt bulb suspended from the ceiling.

"Got any blankets?" he asked. "I've a cabin you can use." I shook my head. "Well, there's the Carpenter Hotel four miles farther on at Atlantic City. Better phone to see if there's a vacancy. I know for a fact that they're



pretty full up with fishermen and hunters this time of year."

I went to the phone booth he pointed out. Yes, Mrs. Carpenter had a room. "Take room three," she said over the wire. "We're in bed and you can register in the morning. I'll leave the electricity on till you get here." I thanked her and hung up, turning back to the lanky storekeeper.

"Antelope hunters?" I asked.

Fred nodded. "The country's full of game. Deer, elk, bear, antelope, even jackass rabbits." He gave me directions, then added as an afterthought: "Personally, I prefer to hunt rocks." During the conversation which followed, I told him about my own interest in rocks.

As I was going out the door, he called: "If you'd like to visit Burnt Ranch and the Oregon Trail tomorrow, drop by. I'll take you. Been wanting to get out there, myself, to make a map of the place."

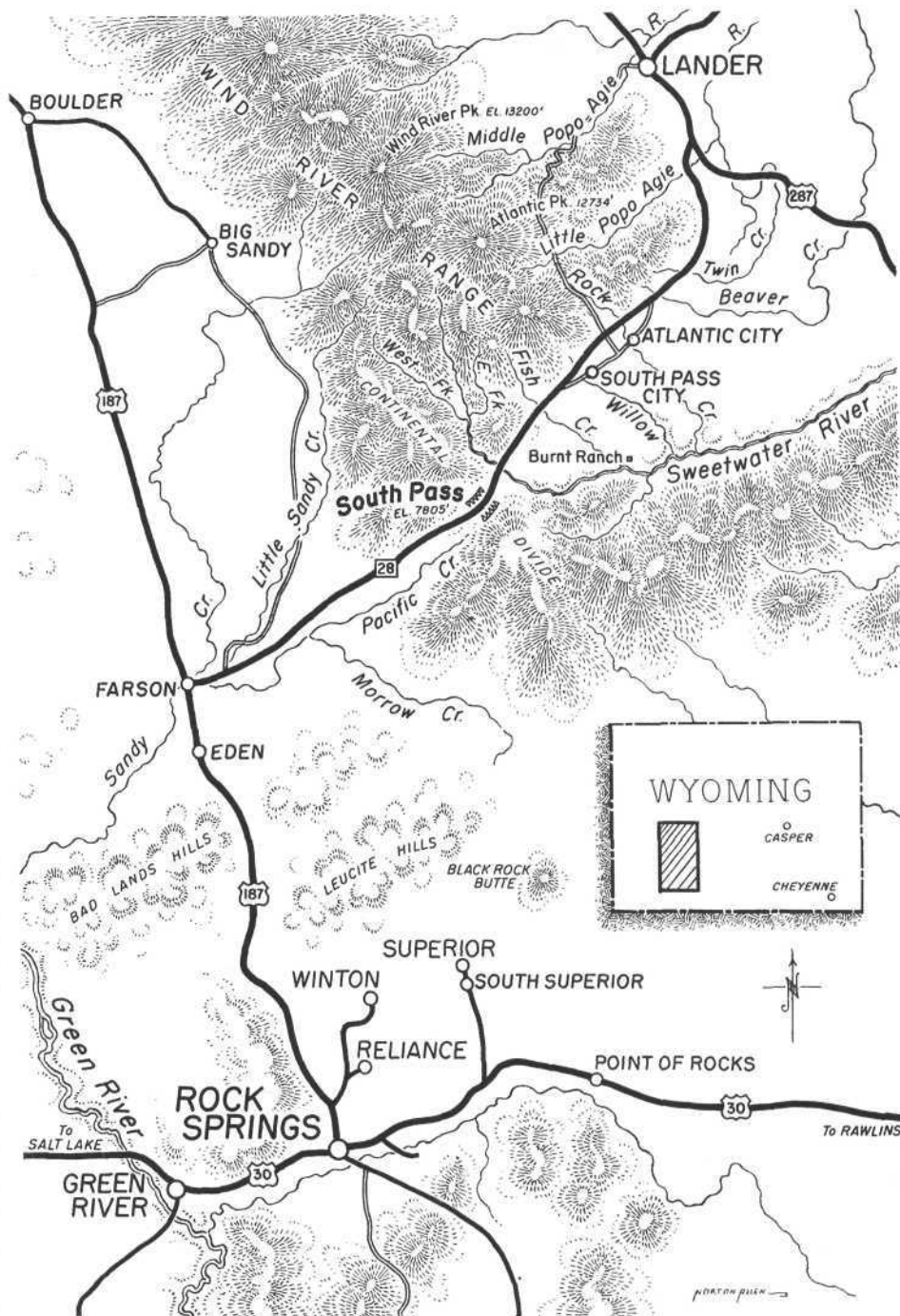
"Sure will," I said, eagerly, for the regional maps only gave the vaguest indications of dirt roads. "And if you know where there's rocks, I'll appreciate it if you point 'em out to me along the way."

The Carpenter Hotel in the nearby gold camp of Atlantic City proved to be a log structure set off by a white picket fence. It was opened in 1904. Mrs. Carpenter, supplying board and room since there is no other place to eat within 50 miles, hasn't changed her prices since she started the hotel, either for bed or board. We discovered why her place attracts outdoorsmen from all over the nation despite outdoor plumbing, and furnishings reminiscent of the not-so-gay '90s. Family style meals were 35 cents for breakfast, 50 cents for lunch, and 75 cents for supper—room a dollar. And what meals! Antelope steak or stew, tremendous fresh salads, all the bacon, ham or eggs one could stow away with potatoes any style, and hot bread! Fishermen taking their daily limit kept the kitchen supplied with trout.

Our room contained a marble-topped dresser with wash basin and water pitcher, an iron bedstead and a tremendous bearskin coat suspended from one wall.

The history of this famous pass through the Wind River Range was well known to me. Shoshone Indians first described it to Sieur de la Verdyere in 1733 when he and his sons on an exploring trip into the upper Missouri basin reached the Continental Divide enroute to Oregon and the California gold fields.

Now, a century later, the last undisturbed remnants of the original Oregon Trail can be reached in a few hours fast drive northeast of Salt Lake City via Green River and Fort Bridger.



bound from Astoria, crossed the "Stony Mountains" by this route and blazed a trail which was to become the main gateway to the northwest territory.

This became known as the Oregon Trail. Along it swept the pageant of a nation moving westward. Nowhere along the 2000-mile passage of savage and perilous desert is history so concentrated as at South Pass where the emigrant wagons toiled over the Continental Divide enroute to Oregon and the California gold fields.

Now, a century later, the last undisturbed remnants of the original Oregon Trail can be reached in a few hours fast drive northeast of Salt Lake City via Green River and Fort Bridger.

First the Mountain Men and later the Mormons and finally the 'Fortyniners—all of those who trekked westward over a route north of the Santa Fe Trail came to South Pass.

Wyoming's famous mountain men came in 1823 to establish the rendezvous system of fur trading. Fabulous Jim Bridger built his noted fort for California-bound pilgrims on Black's Fork in 1843, the first trading post in western history. Bridger became one of the most noted military guides through the unexplored Indian Territory between Wyoming and the Mexican border.

In 1836, Dr. Marcus Whitman pioneered the route to Oregon, convoying the first emigrant train west. On July

4, standing on the crest of South Pass, Dr. Whitman took possession of all the land, afterward divided up into Wyoming, Utah and Idaho, in the name of God and the United States.

From 1862 to 1868 savage Indian wars swept the region north of the Platt. The Sioux scourged the emigrant trails under Red Cloud, forcing withdrawal of all whites from the territory. Then a new route was surveyed far to the south, by way of Denver, over which the Union Pacific railroad was constructed in 1868. Thereafter, South Pass began to fade from the scene as an emigrant trail.

Meanwhile, in 1842 gold was found along the Sweetwater. It was not until 1860-'62 that thousands of frenzied miners settled South Pass City and adjacent Atlantic City. Tom Ryan, a soldier in the Nevada Volunteers, discovered the fabulously rich Carissa lode on the hill above South Pass City in 1865. In the fall of 1952 when I visited the region, ore was still being produced that ran \$1500 a ton. During the 1930s, placer mining in Atlantic City lined the stream bed with miles of heaped up detritus.

Because of the influx of settlers to South Pass, Wyoming was made a Territory in 1869. Outstanding among the first acts of the lawmakers was the granting of suffrage to women, an idea that originated at the Esther Morris Tea Party in South Pass City.

The militant Esther Morris, then 57 years old, was immediately elected the nation's first justice of the peace. She held court in her log home sitting behind a log slab bench, wearing a sober



*Fred Stratton, postmaster and storekeeper at South Pass City, who knows where the gem fields are located. He stands beside a marker erected by his grandfather on the old Oregon Trail.*

calico gown, green ribbons in her hair, a green necktie and the look of a justice who meant business. Of the seventy-odd cases she tried, not one was ever reversed.

In the morning, Frances and I set out for South Pass City to take advantage of Fred Stratton's invitation.

He was waiting for us at his store. "No need to keep regular hours," he said "It's the only store in 50 miles and customers are used to waiting."

"I like to roam the hills," he added. "Here, I'll show you some rocks I've found."

From behind the counter he brought out several boxes of fine specimens in the rough. He hefted some ebony black agatized wood. "From the Oregon Buttes a few miles west of South Pass," he explained. "If you folks have time, we might take a run over there . . ."

He showed me massive tourmaline, and shortite crystals in shale that are peculiar to Wyoming. These crystals are shaped like small triangles. He had several pounds of sheet mica, and all kinds of Indian artifacts from arrowheads to hide scrapers and stone ax heads. "Real old time Indian country," he pointed out. "My grandfather settled here. I'll show you the monument he carved and set up at Burnt Ranch in 1913."

There was searlesite from nearby. "Around here is the third known occurrence of the mineral," Fred explained. "Note how much longer the fibers are than that which comes from Searles Lake in California. Then, of course, there's jade," he fondled some specimens of dark green rock, "and the Wyoming jade fields are only 40 miles south of here."

Fred next showed me petrified algae in massive occurrence, also from the Oregon Butte area. Of several boxes of varicolored petrified wood chips, he said: "Whole logs of this

*Where the old emigrant trains camped at the crossing of the Sweetwater, on the Oregon Trail.*







*These two monuments stand at the summit of the historic South Pass through the Continental Divide in Wyoming.*

wood can be found on the divide between Hall and Twin Creeks a couple miles from here. It's really beautiful when polished."

Then we got into my car and headed for historic points of interest. Fred knew all the unmapped side roads, shepherd's trails, and antelope feeding grounds in the country. As he indicated the proper turns, he explained his reasons for returning to South Pass.

"I got tired of the Big City and of reporting for the San Francisco Chronicle. I've had a hankering for the Wind River country ever since I left it as a boy. I don't regret coming back; a man gets used to not having big city conveniences." He let his blue eyes rove north to the jagged peaks scraping the deep blue sky. "The country becomes a part of you after a while," he said, softly. "Anyway, I bought out the South Pass Trading Company—it hasn't been closed since 1864 — and in my spare time, I'm writing a book about this region."

At Burnt Ranch on the Sweetwater grass was knee deep, tipped with fall brown. We'd no more than come to a halt than Fred pointed out the window. "Look!" he said. A band of perhaps 50 antelope swung up from water and lined out across the meadow

200 yards distant. Curious, they stopped to look at us. Then with a flashing of white rumps they bounded away over the hill and disappeared.

We found historic Burnt Ranch much as it must have been after the Sioux burned it out nearly a century ago. Two tumbledown log buildings remained.

Getting out, Fred led us down the meadow to his grandfather's monument. To the west a little farther we visited the last emigrant crossing of the Sweetwater, a stream about 15 feet wide at this point. The ford led to a broad circular bare spot a hundred or more feet in diameter. "The old emigrant wagon circle," Fred explained. "Still waiting for the wagons that will never come again."

To one side he showed us the crude grave and marker of the first white woman, a Mrs. Brian, to perish on the Oregon Trail. The marker was scratched with the date, July 25, 1845.

Out of the circular camp ground, the emigrant wagon tracks climb a steep grade. Returning to the car, we drove over a more accessible dirt road till we came to South Pass, a barren plateau of sun, wind and space. I realized why there seemed to be no mountains; at 7805 feet we were on top of them.

Two lonely markers stand on the Continental Divide commemorating the Oregon Trail. Beyond, the ancient wagon road, still undisturbed by modern man, winds toward Pacific Creek. Farther on, it parallels the modern paved highway — new since 1950 — that crosses the mountains from Farson to Lander. I looked at Fred Stratton, bronzed by sun and wind. His roots were here, in its history. He pointed to the glaciated peaks, 20 miles north.

"Over there," he said, "the Government has set aside the greatest primitive area in America, the Wind River Wilderness, it's called, as free of roads, camps, towns or buildings as it was when the uninhibited Mountain Men trapped its farthest reaches."

He paused, thinking. "Tell your friends to come see me next summer. There's history enough here to interest everyone. There's millions of plain and fancy rocks to keep even the most ardent collector quiet for a while, and I'll even help 'em find some. And if anybody wants to bring a trailer, why he can stop in town, or over on the Sweetwater where the emigrants camped a hundred years ago, and stay as long as he likes. There's nobody to tell him what to do or not to do, 'cepting his own conscience . . ."



*Desert Star Cactus—Photographed by Claire Meyer Proctor*

### DESERT SUNSET

By GEORGIA SULLIVAN  
Marshall, Missouri

Here on the pottery of this desert land,  
A masterpiece eludes the artist's hand.  
Only the singing heart can hope to trace  
A close communion in this air-bound  
place.

Low in the East, a lullaby of blue,  
Hushed to a tranquil grey and purple  
hue,  
Stirred with a daylight finger on the  
crest,  
Signals the storied crimson in the West.

Far in the global arch a calmness spreads,  
Mending the darkened clouds with  
gentle threads  
Of fantasy. And in soft sky-suspension  
Tempers the colored song to soul di-  
mension.

### THE LAST BURRO

By JOHN VICTOR SPEIRS  
Lake Sherwood, California

With his back to a boulder huge and gray  
In the fading light of a dying day  
An ancient burro stood at bay.  
In a semi-circle upon the sand,  
With a patience born in a patient land,  
Sat and waited a coyote band—  
On the desert.

And they watched the burro with amber  
eyes  
While the sun slid down in the western  
skies.  
And who is to say there was not regret  
As the burro watched his last sunset—  
On the desert.

When the hills moved upward and met the  
sun  
As if at a signal when day was done  
The coyotes moved in one by one.  
Then the sun dipped downward its face  
to hide  
And the darkness fell on the countryside—  
Redly the sunset also died—  
On the desert.

## Desert Miracle

By SARAH SALINGER  
Santa Barbara, California

A cactus grew on a desert waste  
Where wind and sun together wrought  
A wilderness, that no one sought.

There was no sign of bird or tree  
Or desert grass—just stars at night  
To make the lonely desert bright.

Through heat of day and cold of night  
The cactus grew—a patient thing  
Without a sign of blossoming.

Then magically, within its heart  
A promise stirred, of life-to-be  
To set the cactus spirit free.

The cactus must have understood—  
It trusted stars to count the hour  
When from its breast would bloom a  
flower.

### HIGH VIEW

By MADELEINE FOUCHAUX  
Los Angeles, California

Watch from a mountain at the close of day:  
Across the desert hills soft colors flow,  
Merging with purple shades, while far away  
Tall peaks are lit with sunset's rosy glow.  
Watch from a mountain as the sun goes  
down:

Long shadows reach to grasp the waning  
light,  
Drawing the miles of noon-day's dusty  
brown

Into the tranquil indigo of night.  
Watch from a mountain as the velvet dome  
Is lanterned by a million stars, low-hung  
Above a valley where the ocean foam  
Once flecked blue waters when the land  
was young.

Now in the desert night, each rounded  
dune

Sleeps undisturbed beneath the great,  
white moon.

### TIME

By ETHEL K. LACEY  
Easton, Connecticut

Until I stood upon the Canyon brink,  
Beholding the result, superb, sublime,  
Of ceaseless toil by sun and wind and rain,  
I'd never given too much thought to  
TIME.

It took that matchless length and breadth  
and depth

To make me realize how slow and still  
The grind of centuries—Eternity—  
How short my span of life to do His will.

## On Privation

By TANYA SOUTH

Extreme privation need deter  
No one, with courage to explore  
The inner depths. All things are  
measured  
In God. All upward effort treasured.

Think not because you are oppressed,  
Or feel an outcast, that your lot  
Must be all thwarted and distressed.  
If you have striven hard, and sought  
The higher Light, that shall you gain.  
The things we strive for, we attain.



# Letters

## James White's River Trip . . .

Monrovia, California

Desert:

In the October, 1952 issue of *Desert Magazine*, I was keenly interested in Randall Henderson's story, "Glen Canyon Voyage," in which he referred to T. M. Brown, promoter, and Robert Brewster Stanton, chief engineer, in the railway survey of the Colorado River territory.

I personally had contact with Mr. Stanton. It was in 1907 that he made a special trip to my old home town of Trinidad, Colorado, in search of one James White who was accredited with being the first man to navigate the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. The hotel where Mr. Stanton was registered referred him to me, as I was operating a public stenographic office at the time and had a broad acquaintance among the townspeople.

It so happened that I did know James White. We called him Old Jim. He drove a two-horse express wagon, transporting trunks and baggage from the railroad depot to hotels.

As far as I know, Old Jim never bragged or mentioned the escapades of his past life to anyone. I introduced him to Stanton who asked him if he was the James White who had been the first white man to run the Grand Canyon of the Colorado. Old Jim, dubious of Stanton, answered, "yep." He remained dubious until Stanton pressed a \$20 gold piece into his hand. Jim then consented to tell his story that night in his home.

That evening after supper I escorted Stanton to Old Jim's and heard the old man relate his harrowing experience riding a raft down the Colorado. Believe me, it would be a thriller in today's movies! The interview took about an hour and a half, after which Stanton and I returned to my office, where I typed the story on 11 single-spaced pages. At 2:30 a.m. Stanton was on a Santa Fe limited headed for New York.

Several weeks later I received a letter from him stating he was finishing a compilation of geological, geographical and historical facts of the West for publication and requesting my help. He wanted me to ask Old Jim a few more questions and advised me that as soon as the publication was printed he would mail me a copy. I returned the answers to his question,

but I never received any copy of Robert Brewster Stanton's *Historical Facts and Records*.

Several years ago I wrote to the National Geographic Research Department but was advised that they had no record of the story of Jim White's experience.

If any of your readers know Stanton's book and where I might see a copy, I would appreciate hearing from them.

ROY LAPPIN

*A full record of White's story is given by Dr. C. C. Parry, assistant geologist of the Union Pacific Railway survey, in William A. Bell's "New Tracks in North America," published in 1869. Most of those who have argued the pros and cons of White's story agree that he navigated only a section of the lower canyon above Callville.*

## Rocky Mountain Canaries . . .

Hayward, California

Desert:

I am getting quite a kick out of the Rocky Mountain Canary controversy. I never knew that the burro was anything but an exotic critter on the desert.

If all the wild burros in the Grand Canyon had been permitted to live and increase unhampered, they and all other fauna would have starved to death many years ago. Even the lizards would have been short of forage.

H. F. LAUZAN

## Jackrabbit Homestead Sites . . .

Camp Wood, Arizona

Desert:

I often have wondered why more five-acre homesteaders have not found their way into this isolated area. Jackrabbit homesteads are available here in canyons where water can be had or pumped onto the land, where the climate allows an eight-month growing season, where fruit trees thrive and have heavy crops. It is a good place to raise rabbits or chickens.

We have an altitude of 3500 to 4500 feet, and the climate is ideal. There are no telephones, the mail route is 20 or 25 miles away. There are no roads to the homestead sites, but if a group worked together, roads could be built.

This area is a great place for rock-hounds. Some parts can be had for mining claims, since gem stones can be found and mined in veins of rock.

Not far from here are several large mines—the Bagdad Copper Mine, the Hillside Mine and others. The canyon for five-acre homesteads lies about 12 miles north and 15 miles west of these mines.

MRS. BERTHA E. SCHELL

## Desert River Rat . . .

Arcadia, California

Desert:

Congratulations on *Desert Magazine's* fine cover for June.

Art Greene is certainly a living symbol of our grand desert and open spaces, and your June cover is a fitting tribute to him.

Like many others, I have had the good fortune to spend a little time with Art and his fine family at Cliff Dwellers Lodge, where friendliness and hospitality are unsurpassed.

LAWRENCE L. BROWN

## Rattlers at High Noon . . .

Tucson, Arizona

Desert:

I was interested in the editorial note to Charles D. Mandly's letter regarding rattlesnakes, as printed in the June issue of *Desert*. I too had always heard that rattlers were never found out in the open in the hot sun, especially near midday when the rays are most powerful. This I believed until the following incidents convinced me that at least there are exceptions to this rule.

Nora and Bill Williams of Everett, Washington, my wife and I of Tucson, were returning to camp at high noon on March 27, 1949. The location was about 15 miles southeast of La Paz, Baja California. We had hiked about four miles down this large arroyo or sand wash to the Gulf of California, taking pictures of wild palm and strangler fig trees. The temperature was intense, the sun beating down from a cloudless sky.

Suddenly I yelled: "Look out, Nora!" There, stretched full length, lay a rattlesnake. One step more and Nora's foot would have landed directly on the snake's tail.

We killed the snake, then stood about marveling at its protective coloring which blended perfectly with the light brownish white of decomposed granite.

Three days later, driving through country where shimmering heat waves rose steadily from the sand dunes, we noticed a movement in the otherwise lifeless desert. Stopping to investigate, we saw an unusually large rattler trying to catch a mouse in a large sand depression. The rattler would glide up to the mouse which would make a mad scramble up the sides of soft sand. The tiny rodent would almost reach safety when the sand would cave in. Then the terrified animal would half jump, half fall over the snake and race to the other side. This evidently had been going on for some time, as the side-to-side tracks criss-crossed a dozen times.

(A reader)

## From Minersville to Vanderbilt . . .

San Bernardino, California

Desert:

Nell Murbarger's interesting article in June's *Desert* featuring the little town of Minersville, Utah, had a peculiar interest for me, although I have never been in Minersville. It carried me back to the early '90s when I was working in the then booming camp of Vanderbilt, in northeastern San Bernardino County, California.

A Paiute Indian (or maybe he was a Shoshone) named Bob Black found the Vanderbilt ore, and he carried his samples back north with him, to what destination I know not, but I do know that Utah capital figured largely in financing and developing many of Vanderbilt's mines. As a result, there was quite an influx of Utah miners to the new camp.

I became acquainted and talked with many of them and learned with some astonishment that practically all of them came from the same place — Minersville, Utah.

At that time I had never heard of Minersville. And, to tell the truth, I have never heard of it since until Nell Murbarger so vividly and surprisingly brought it back to my memory.

The Vanderbilt boom didn't last long, and in a brief while those Mormon miners returned to their home town.

In recent years I have visited the old camp a time or two. There is very little left to remind me of the busy little town of 60 years ago—a few tottering headframes over mining shafts and some concrete foundations, nothing more.

CHARLES BATTYE

## Treasure Hunt for Fun . . .

Kirbyville, Texas

Desert:

When I married my husband in 1950, he had spent 35 years hunting buried treasure. It wasn't long after our marriage that I was initiated into the treasure-hunting game.

We had met a man who said he knew where some treasure was buried in southeast Texas. He said he would show my husband where it was if we would finance the trip. Of course my husband couldn't resist.

We bought a new car and a new trailer and started out. Trouble was with us from the beginning — car trouble, an accident with the trailer, more car trouble. We finally reached Kirbyville, Texas, where we were to start looking for the treasure. Only then did we learn that our guide's story was based on a vision he had had — and the vision could carry us no farther. My husband could have shot him.

Our funds were about gone. My husband stayed and prospected along the Sabin and Natches rivers, and I returned home to Los Angeles.

I learned the hard way that dreams, visions and wishful thinking won't create riches. This treasure hunting business is all right for fun, but not for bread-and-butter living. If you can afford a treasure-hunting trip, fine; but be satisfied to come home empty-handed with the memories of a good vacation in the beautiful out-of-doors.

MARY A. FENNINGER

• • •

## When Water Is Needed . . .

San Diego, California

Desert:

Weldon Heald's "Bed and Grub in a Knapsack" in your February issue was well done, but as a fellow Sierra Clubber and an avid back-packer I would like to take issue with him as to one point.

Mr. Heald did not go so far as to condemn the use of all canteens, but he did place himself in opposition to them. His answer was that if there isn't any water you can be sure of,

don't go. In my estimation that is the wrong answer.

The main reason for back-packing is to explore new regions, and when entering virgin country one is apt to find that springs, no matter how authentic they may appear on maps, have a habit of disappearing or being somewhere else. And sometimes they dry up.

Paul Valley, who knows San Diego County like the palm of his hand, once hiked into Pinyon Valley with a short water supply knowing there was a spring that had never been dry as long as he could remember. But the spring was dry on this trip, and he barely made it out.

No, I think the wiser practice is to know one's minimum requirements for hot, warm and cool weather and always have in the knapsack enough water to cover the distance back to the last point at which known water exists. There are many who realize too late that the desert doesn't give a second chance. However, the hiker who carries a reserve supply of water doesn't need a second chance.

OMAR D. CONGER

# Permits Required for Mining in Borrego and Anza Parks

While unauthorized prospecting and mining are illegal in the Borrego and Anza State Parks in Southern California, there are certain conditions under which mining operations may be carried on, according to information recently given out by the California Division of Beaches and Parks, of which Newton B. Drury is director.

The recreational area formerly known as the Anza Desert State Park, containing about 460,000 acres, has now been divided into two parks, Borrego State Park being north of Highway 78 and Anza Desert State Park being south of the highway. Insofar as mining is concerned, the same rules apply in both areas.

Most of the land in the two state parks was acquired by patent from the federal government. In deeding the land to the state, Uncle Sam withheld the right to prospect, mine and remove minerals on these lands. Under rules set up by the Secretary of Interior, a person wishing to remove minerals from this land must file an application accompanied by a fee of \$10 or more, according to circumstances. If a mining lease is authorized it will provide for the amount of royalty to be paid the government, and

it will also require a performance bond of not less than \$1000. This bond is to guarantee that the plant life, scenic features and other values will be safeguarded.

The California State Park commission has no authority to grant mining permits. However, after the federal government has granted such a permit, and it is necessary to haul mineral materials across park lands, a permit from the state commission is necessary from the state park office to transport the minerals across park lands, and for the building of access roads if they are necessary.

The intent of these laws and procedures is simply to protect the state parks from unauthorized commercial activity which might destroy the values for which the parks were created.

Persons desiring detailed information as to federal laws and procedure should contact the U. S. Bureau of Land Management in the Los Angeles postoffice building. For information and such authorization as is required from the state it is necessary to contact the Park Division's District VI headquarters for the Southern California area at Postoffice Box 1328 at San Clemente, California.



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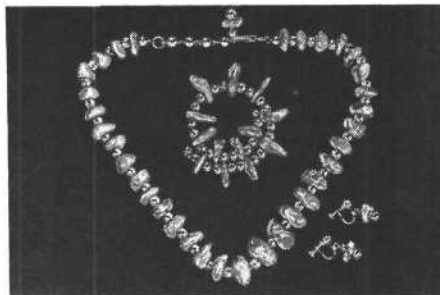
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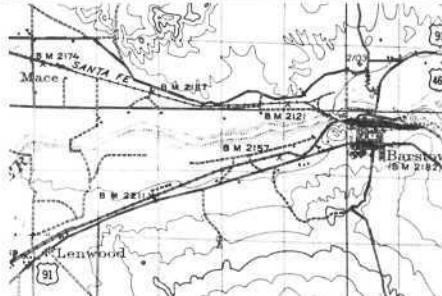
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## GUIDE TO PALM CANYONS

**WILD PALMS of the California Desert**, is a little book by Randall Henderson telling of his exploration in the native palm canyons of Southern California, with map and detailed information about Palm Canyon, Andreas Canyon, Fern Canyon and Eagle Canyon—near Palm Springs. The author estimates there are 11,000 of these palms in more than 100 separate oases. Story includes botanical classification, what is known about their history. 32 pp. photos. Desert Crafts Shop, Palm Desert, California—50c.

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# Mines and Mining

## Tucson, Arizona . . .

Knox-Arizona Copper Company has struck high grade copper ore at its Copper Mountain property. A cross formation tunnel has been driven into the mountain a distance of 565 feet from its portal. Approximately 125 feet in, a highly mineralized body of ore was encountered. This body, exposed for a distance of about 103 feet, consists of such minerals as chalcopirite, chalcocite, malachite and some cuprite and bornite. "Of particular interest and value is a vein 26 inches wide containing bornite," a company official said. Bornite runs high in copper.—*Humboldt Star*.

## Phoenix, Arizona . . .

A new firm, the American Copper Company, is taking over the Sunset Mine and other properties of the Sunset Mining Company and the Arizona Mining Company, nine miles southwest of Magma Copper Company. The present 600-foot main shaft is to be extended to the sulphide zone with exploration and development work on the upper levels.—*Mining Record*.

## Washington, D. C. . . .

A House subcommittee has approved a bill aimed at preventing the staking out of "summer resort" mining claims. The bill would prevent locators from using the claims for anything but mining purposes until they have proved them and have received a patent from the government. Mining interests backed the bill. Raymond B. Holbrook of Salt Lake City, attorney for the American Smelting and Refining Company, said fraudulent claims often are made for the timber in the claim or for a fine cabin site. The bill was approved by the public lands subcommittee. It now goes to the full interior committee.—*Humboldt Star*.

## St. Johns, Arizona . . .

Miner Adair "Mike" Hill of Grand Junction, Colorado, has made the first uranium strike in the St. Johns area. He trucked his first load recently from the Long H Ranch near here. Hill said he believes the uranium content of the ore may reach one percent, and he is confident it will yield \$35,000 in bonus content, for four pounds of uranium oxide per ton, for the first 10,000 pounds. He holds a two-year lease on the 150,000 acre ranch. — *Battle Mountain Scout*.

## Kingman, Arizona . . .

From four unpatented claims in the Detroit Group, Dick Hart and Adrian Skinner, working on a lease from I. M. George of Kingman, have shipped five tons of ore from a 4½-foot vein which shows values in gold, silver, copper and zinc. As uranium ore recently has been discovered in this group, samples are being tested for possible uranium values. — *Pioche Record*.

## Marysville, Utah . . .

Laboratory research at Columbia University has disclosed a new type of uranium combined with molybdenum and water which is said to contain 48 percent uranium. The research conducted by Prof. Paul F. Kerr and an assistant, Gerald P. Brophy, consisted of analyzing ore samples from veins in Freedom No. 2 uranium mine in Marysville. The name umohoite has been given the new mineral. It is not yet known how widely it is distributed. It is believed the mineral was deposited about 25 million years ago by solutions from dying volcanoes, where hot springs were not far away.—*Salt Lake Tribune*.

## Ruth, Nevada . . .

Kennecott Copper Corporation will develop a new open pit copper mine in Nevada, according to an announcement by Frank R. Milliken, vice-president in charge of mining operations. Development work will start in the near future, and full production is expected to be attained in 1954. The new open pit will be near Kennecott's present Nevada operations, at an ore body known as the Veteran. The Veteran is approximately 1400 feet long and 600 feet wide and consists of low grade copper ore, averaging less than one percent. Although this deposit was mined by underground methods many years ago, it has not been in operation since 1914.—*Las Vegas Review-Journal*.

## Tonopah, Nevada . . .

Peter Fabbi of Tonopah has announced operations will soon begin at his Nevada Mine at Lone Mountain in Esmeralda County. To develop the property, embracing six claims, the Sunrise Mining Corporation is being formed with home offices in Tonopah. Lead-silver ore has been shipped from the property in the past. — *Tonopah Times-Bonanza*.

## Albuquerque, New Mexico . . .

A total of 57 ore discoveries have been made in New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming during the past two years under the Defense Minerals Exploration Administration program, the Bureau of Mines has announced. Thirteen of the finds have been classified by the government as "large deposits" capable of being developed commercially. The bureau reported 115 exploration projects currently are under way in the five states to increase domestic ore reserves. — *New Mexican*.

## Las Vegas, Nevada . . .

Immediate reconstruction of the Manganese, Inc. mill at Las Vegas is planned, following almost total destruction by fire in mid-June. Bill Campbell, public relations official for the firm, reported that there was no thought of not rebuilding the plant, and work to that end would begin immediately. The fire, which broke out in the rod mill near the bins, did damage estimated at several hundred thousand dollars. Flames spread rapidly through the rod mill and to the flotation plant. Both buildings were destroyed in less than 50 minutes. — *Las Vegas Review-Journal*.

## Tonopah, Nevada . . .

Argentite Development Corporation has been formed here to develop five claims known as the Bumblebee in the Argentite District of Esmeralda County. Bulldozers already are at work on the property. Officers of the new firm are A. R. Wardle, president; Carroll Humphrey, vice-president, and Ray Hines, secretary-treasurer.

## Tucson, Arizona . . .

Government representatives have signed a contract with Banner Mining Company of Tucson, calling for production of \$12,960,000 pounds of refined copper over a three-year period from mining properties in Pima County, Arizona. The company's copper and molybdenum mining properties, known as the Mineral Hill group and the Plumed Knight group, will be developed and improved under the contract. The government will advance the company up to \$473,665, repayable with interest over a period of 4½ years, for development work. — *Mining Record*.

## Bagdad, Arizona . . .

Cyprus Mines Corporation has begun operation on a 24-hour basis at the old Copper Queen Mine near Bagdad. The company is carrying on extensive exploration work in addition to regular mining operations.



# Here and There - on the Desert

## ARIZONA

### Protest Indian Draft . . .

FLAGSTAFF — Traditional leaders of the Hopi Indians have asked the President, Congress and the people of the United States immediately to cease drafting Hopi youths for military service and to release all Hopis now serving in the armed forces. In a letter to President Eisenhower, Hopi leaders protested the government's drafting of Hopi men into military service without the tribe's consent and in violation of Hopi religion. "As a separate and distinct nation we have never relinquished our rights or authority to any other nation, and we have made no agreement to participate in its war effort. Our whole religious order, our culture and our Hopi way of life are seriously threatened by your war efforts," the letter protested.—*Phoenix Gazette*.

### Opposes State Indian Plan . . .

PHOENIX — Another Arizona Indian leader has voiced opposition to Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater's plan to turn administration of reservation affairs over to the state government. "We feel that the federal government has an obligation to educate the Indians and to provide health and welfare services until such time as the tribes are financially able to provide for their own people," said Hollis Chough, chairman of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Community Council. Goldwater believes that Indian affairs can be handled better and more cheaply at the state level.

### Seen Any Swamp Cats Lately? . . .

YUMA—An S.O.S. went out recently from the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum near Tucson to residents of Yuma to keep on the lookout for swamp cats and land crabs for the Museum's zoological collection. Specimens of other animals and harmless snakes and lizards in the Yuma area also were solicited by William H. Carr, museum director. A recent Yuma collecting trip netted museum scientists 85 reptiles, including a rare sand lizard.—*Yuma Daily Sun*.

HOLBROOK—Summer hours went into effect June 8 at Petrified Forest National Monument near Holbrook. Gates will open at 6 a.m. and close at 7 p.m., announced Superintendent William E. Branch. Since the distance between gates is 14 miles, visitors will not be permitted to enter the monument after 6:30 p.m.

### Solve Canyon Chute Riddle . . .

GRAND CANYON — The riddle of the two "parachutes" which were reported to have fallen into the Grand Canyon has been solved. Superintendent Harold C. Bryant said that the objects, brought under telescopic scrutiny by two experts from the naval air facility at Litchfield Park and four forest rangers, were a weather balloon and detached parachute with an instrument box. The balloons were of the same Moby Dick type as two released earlier at Riverside, California, and lost.—*Phoenix Gazette*.

### Grand Canyon Movie Planned . . .

GRAND CANYON—A surveying party left Lees Ferry June 5 on a three-week exploratory trip through the Grand Canyon, studying light conditions, scenic attractions and dangerous rapids preparatory to photographing scenes for a movie on the life of John Wesley Powell. The Walt Disney Studios of Hollywood plans to take actors and equipment down the Colorado River next June to make the movie. Powell made the first river trip through the canyon in 1869.—*Phoenix Gazette*.

### Seek Mammoth Remains . . .

TUCSON — Remains of a second mammoth are being hunted by University of Arizona anthropologists near Douglas, and there are indications that the prehistoric elephant may be larger than the two unearthed near Naco last spring. The left permanent lower molar from a mammoth's jaw has been found in an erosion gully. The grinding surface of the tooth measures more than a foot. It was found by Jimmy Pettitt of Warren while on a hike with his parents. Further excavation will be deferred until fall.—*Phoenix Gazette*.

### Segundo Resigns Papago Post . . .

SELLS — Tom Segundo, elected leader of more than 7000 Southern Arizona Indians, has resigned as chairman of the Papago Tribal Council. The 33-year-old Segundo, recognized as one of the most influential Indian spokesmen in the United States, planned to seek employment in Chicago to the end of entering the University of Chicago Law School. "I have long felt," Segundo explained, "that I could be of greater service to my people if I were able to continue my education. It is with the hope of returning as a real asset to the tribe that I leave now."—*Phoenix Gazette*.

### Smoki Museum in Prescott . . .

PRESCOTT—The Smoki Museum near the Prescott city park was opened June 1. The museum, owned by the Smoki People, an organization of white residents of Prescott who perpetuate Indian dances through their annual Smoki Ceremonials, will be open to visitors on weekdays from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Mrs. Bernice Insley, author of articles and books on the Indians, will be curator. — *Phoenix Gazette*.

### Ghost Museum Opened . . .

JEROME — Formally marking Jerome's end as a bonanza city and the beginning of a new era that town officials hope will bring a healthy tourist trade, the Jerome Ghost City Museum was opened in June. Exhibits tell the history of the once booming mine camp, at one time Arizona's fourth largest city and mother of three thriving towns in the Verde Valley.—*Verde Independent*.

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**MINERALS OF NEW JERSEY:** 20 pp. 35c. Order from Author, William C. Casperson, Curator Paterson Museum, 9-11 Hamilton St., Paterson 1, N. J.

**PANNING GOLD** — Another hobby for rockhounds and desert roamers. A new booklet, "What the Beginner Needs to Know," 36 pages of instructions; also catalogue of mining books and prospectors' supplies, maps of where to go and blue prints of hand machines you can build. Mailed postpaid 25c, coin or Stamps. Old Prospector, Box 729, Desk 5, Lodi, California.

**FOR SALE** — Desert Magazines — May, 1938; October, 1940; April 1941 through March, 1942; September 1942 through August 1951; binders Volumes 4 through 11. \$20 plus postage. Rankin, Hathaway Pines, California.

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## CALIFORNIA

### Mexico Eases Entry Rules . . .

CALEXICO — Mexico is making things a lot easier for tourists to enter the country. The ministry of the interior has announced elimination of much of the red tape which formerly surrounded entry into the country and the adoption of a multiple entry tourist card long sought by the U. S. The announcement outlined these changes:

1. A tourist card good for six months and costing \$5 now may be used for as many visits to Mexico as the tourist desires. In the past, each separate entry called for a new card.

2. North Americans living on the border may visit Mexican towns across the frontier for up to 72 hours with no document other than something proving identity or residence.

3. Airlines and railroads may now fly tourists into Mexico from any U.S. point without tourist cards. Visitors need present only a birth certificate or naturalization papers. Tourist cards will be presented upon arrival here or at customs points.

4. Transportation companies may bring excursions into Mexico with only a list of the excursionists. Tourist cards can be obtained upon arrival.

5. Excursions of students also may be brought in upon presentation of the names of the students only. And there will be no charge for tourist cards. The only requirement—teachers or recognized tutors must be along.

6. Honorary Mexican consuls in all foreign countries may issue tourist cards.

### Sidewinder Motion Explained . . .

INDIO — The sidewinder snake doesn't travel in its peculiar sideways motion just because it is best suited to shifting sands, as has been generally thought. It does so because the motion reduces contact with the burning desert. Dr. Raymond B. Cowles, U.C.L.A. zoologist, discovered during a special snake study. In spite of the fact that the desert is his native habitat, the sidewinder is very sensitive to heat, reports Dr. Cowles. When its body heats up past 89 degrees it becomes uncomfortable and unable to function properly. As it sidles across the hot desert stretches, traveling mostly from shade to shade, its peculiar motion keeps the body off the hot ground as much as possible. This helps the snake to avoid heating up past the danger point. If caught on the scorching desert sands, snakes other than sidewinders may use the same peculiar locomotion during extremely hot weather, Dr. Cowles says. —*Indio Date Palm.*

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### More Sea Damage Claims . . .

MECCA — Desert Beach Corporation has filed a fifth supplemental claim for \$30,000 damages suffered by the inundation of the resort property by Salton Sea. The corporation's claims now total \$420,000. The total of sea damage claims now on file is \$632,500.

### Improvements at Joshua Tree . . .

TWENTYNINE PALMS—Included in a development plan outlined by Superintendent Samuel King for Joshua Tree National Monument are a headquarters unit at Twentynine Palms, with a museum, parking area, trails, information center, residences and offices; and improvement of parking and picnicking facilities at Salton View and Cottonwood Springs and black-topping of through roads to points of interest.

### Game Prospects Reported Good . . .

INYO—One of the best game seasons in years is predicted by Art Hensley, game manager of the Inyo-Mono area. A mild winter, good nesting conditions and an excellent feed situation promise more game when hunting seasons open this year. According to Hensley, pheasant, quail and chukar hatches have been good, and the Owens Valley will have an abundance of doves when the season opens September 1.—*Inyo Register*.

### Mesa Project Progresses . . .

BLYTHE—Inclusion of mesa lands into the Palo Verde Irrigation District has progressed to a point where only some 778 acres of a total of 17,778 remain to be brought in, PVID Engineer C. C. Tabor announced in June. Water rights on the mesa are limited to 16,000 acres. The district regards this figure as net acreage subject to irrigation. Allowing 10 percent of lands for roads and buildings, the gross inclusion was set up as 17,778 to give a net of 16,000 for actual use of water rights.—*Palo Verde Valley Times*.

### Gulf Fish Thrive in Salton Sea . . .

INDIO—For three years the California Fish and Game department has been planting small Bairdiella, a species of white sea bass, in Salton Sea. They have been doing so well the California experts fear there will be a shortage of feed for them. In order to solve the situation an expedition left in May for San Felipe on the Gulf to secure a supply of predatory fish for Salton water. The state crew expected to secure corbina weighing from three to six pounds to release in Salton. The California department is hopeful that the experiment will prove so successful they can open Salton Sea to sports fishermen in the not far distant future. California marine biolo-

gists also have made an experimental planting of two species of oyster, three types of clams and two kinds of mussels in Salton Sea.—*Indio News*.

### NEVADA

### Hunters Outgrowing Game . . .

BATTLE MOUNTAIN—The number of American hunters and fishermen is fast outgrowing the supply of fish and game which can be provided for them, Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, president of the Wild Life Management Institute of Washington, D. C., reported recently. "The whole wildlife problem boils down to a program of education for holders of hunting and fishing licenses," he said. "If the sportsman of the future measures his success by the size of his take, he is going to be disappointed. However, if he measures it by the thrill of the sport and the fun of getting into the out-of-doors, he will be satisfied." According to Gabrielson, the number of licensed fishermen and hunters in the U. S. has more than doubled in the past 10 years.—*Battle Mountain Scout*.

### Pioneer Miner Dies . . .

RENO—Funeral services were held early in June for David P. Bartley, 81, co-discoverer of the open pit copper mines at Ruth. Bartley came to the Ely area in 1900 and with E. F. Gray began working the open pit mines later acquired by Kennecott Copper Corporation. He engaged in various mining enterprises throughout the state until his retirement several years ago.—*Humboldt Star*.

### Motorists Spend Millions Here . . .

CARSON CITY — That visiting motorists make a huge contribution to Nevada's income was disclosed in recent figures made public by the state highway department after a survey which extended through 1952. The report estimates 6,451,375 out-of-state visitors in 2,232,340 vehicles spent \$83,913,500 while they were in the state. The motorists spent \$6.10 a stop or \$13.01 a person while they were in Nevada.—*Humboldt Star*.

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### Million-Dollar Restoration . . .

VIRGINIA CITY—A million-dollar fund raising campaign has been launched here for the restoration of the Comstock and the preservation of its historic souvenirs. A restoration committee has been organized under Chairman Clinton Andreasen and will operate within the framework already provided by the Virginia City Foundation Trust, a public trust instituted four years ago by Helen Mayre Thomas, decedent of the prominent Mayre family of bonanza times. Plans already formulated include a centennial celebration in 1959, restoration of wooden sidewalks to replace modern concrete, reversion to gas illumination along C Street and elimination of telephone poles.—*Territorial Enterprise*.

### Easier Access to Caves . . .

ELY — Approaches to Lehman Caves are being improved, to facilitate tourist travel this summer. Highway 93 is being re-routed over Connors Pass, and the 10-mile stretch north of Pioche is being reconstructed. More than 1500 visitors registered at the caves in May.—*Ely Record*.

### Expand Recreation Facilities . . .

FALLON — Predicting increased public use of the Lake Lahontan recreation area this summer, President Ed Gibbs of the Lahontan Boat Club announced that expansion of boating and camping facilities is under way. A larger picnic area, more parking space and a new floating dock are under construction.—*Fallon Standard*.

## NEW MEXICO

### Civil Rights Bill Nearer . . .

WASHINGTON — Passage of the Patten Bill to remove all federal laws discriminating against Indians became a definite possibility when the U. S. Indian Bureau withdrew its opposition. The bill would rescind such federal laws as those which make it impossible for Indians to sell cattle or household possessions, buy beer or guns, baseball bats, frying pans or other articles which could be used as weapons. The legislation in its original form applied only to Indians in Arizona, but was broadened to include the entire nation.

### Indian Potter Wins Honor . . .

SANTA FE—"For outstanding contributions to the field of pottery," Maria Martinez, famed potter of San Ildefonso Pueblo, was awarded the Colorado University Recognition Medal at commencement exercises June 6. Mrs. Martinez—whose first award came at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair—has won numerous top

awards and special honors and regularly takes virtually every prize for pottery work at Southwest regional competitions. Perhaps an even greater contribution to the pottery field than her own outstanding designs and deft technique has been her teaching the intricacies of fine pottery craftsmanship to other women of her pueblo, which has made Ildefonso the pottery capital of Indian country.—*New Mexican*.

### Range Feed Poor . . .

ALBUQUERQUE — The condition of range feed in the 17 western states June 1 dropped to its lowest point in 26 years, according to the western livestock and range report of the Bureau of Agriculture Economics. Dry and short feed conditions have held the condition of sheep to below average in New Mexico, Nevada, Utah and Texas. Some cattle have been forced to move from the dry areas of the Southwest to northern pastures.—*New Mexican*.

### Museum for Santa Rosa . . .

SANTA ROSA — Current project of the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce is establishment of a museum as a tourist attraction. A building has already been donated, and local residents are contributing Indian relics and other material from the area. Negotiations are underway to obtain an Oklahoma collection of Southwest Indian artifacts.—*Santa Rosa News*.

### Expect More New Mexicans . . .

SANTA FE—New Mexico's population will reach 877,000 by 1960, according to an estimate released this week by the Pacific Southwest Research Council of the National Association of Manufacturers. This is an increase of 28.7 percent since the last census. The state's labor force, NAM predicts, will total 298,180 in 1960, an increase of 68,230 new jobs. According to the association's formula, approximately 376 new settlers will arrive in New Mexico each week in the next 10 years.—*New Mexican*.

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### Tribe Okays Tourist Plan . . .

ALBUQUERQUE — The Navajo Indians plan a \$1,200,000 construction project this summer to attract tourists. Irving Coryell, Albuquerque architect, announced a Navajo advisory committee decision approving preliminary plans and authorizing him to draw specifications. The project includes a \$380,000 shopping center at Shiprock, Ariz., a \$186,000 motel and restaurant at Chinle, Ariz., and other motels with restaurants at Kayenta, Tuba City, and Ganado, Arizona. The motels will average 20 units each and the restaurants are designed to seat 100 each. The tribe already operates motels at Window Rock, Ariz., and Shiprock. The projects are part of their long-range plan to put themselves on a self-sustaining basis.

### Cattle Men Plan Meet . . .

HOBBS — Between 400 and 600 cattle producers are expected in Hobbs two days in September when the quarterly fall meeting of the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association will be held here. Harry Nunan, manager of the Hobbs Chamber of Commerce, is busy rounding up overnight accommodations for 250 to 300 visiting out-of-towners in the tiny city. The meeting is held annually in Hobbs. — *Eddy County News*.

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THE *Desert* MAGAZINE

PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA

### Survey Favors Bureau . . .

ALBUQUERQUE—An Indian Bureau official says a government questionnaire sent to 19 pueblos and three Navajo groups indicates the Indians do not want bureau activities halted. C. L. Graves, Albuquerque area director for the bureau, said he believes New Mexico Indians realize they are not ready for full citizenship responsibilities. The questionnaire was sent out by the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs to obtain comprehensive information "regarding the actual practices which have developed under the tribal organization clauses of the Indian Reorganization Act."—*New Mexican*.

### Measure Mountains . . .

TAOS — Wheeler Peak near Taos nosed out South Truchas Peak near Santa Fe to win by 58 feet the title, "highest in New Mexico." New Mexico mountains were re-surveyed recently by the United States Geological Survey.—*New Mexican*.

### UTAH

#### Less Ducks This Fall . . .

SALT LAKE CITY—There will be fewer ducks for Utah hunters this year, according to Fish and Wildlife surveys of waterfowl breeding grounds. Late

snows and freezing weather injured nesting conditions, and May 1 water reports indicated there would be less water this year than last over the course of the breeding season as a whole.—*Salt Lake Tribune*.

### Map Tourist Campaign . . .

SALT LAKE CITY—A state-wide program to expand Utah's multi-million-dollar tourist business has been approved by the Utah Tourist and Publicity Council established this year by the State Legislature. The program will be carried out by local chambers of commerce and similar groups interested in bringing more visitors to the state. The council has a \$100,000 appropriation for the program. — *Salt Lake Tribune*.

### Mexican Hat Bridge Out . . .

MEXICAN HAT—The suspension bridge spanning the San Juan River at Mexican Hat gave way when a 19-ton loaded truck attempted to cross despite posted warnings of a five-ton limit. The truck driver was uninjured and managed to swim to shore. Repair work was started at once, and traffic over the bridge was resumed within a week. Nearest crossings on the river are at Navajo Bridge, 180 miles west by river, and at Shiprock, New Mexico, 120 miles east. The Mexican Hat bridge is an important link to uranium mines in the Monument Valley area.—*San Juan Record*.

### For Zion Park Campers . . .

KANAB—Ready for summer visitors, the new camp ground at Zion National Park was opened to the public in June. Built last winter at a total cost of \$67,500, the improvement includes 100 campsites with appurtenant automobile roads and walks, water, electricity and sewer facilities, fireplaces and picnic tables. Fifty more campsites are planned for future construction. The sites are designed to accommodate trailers as well as tents. — *Washington County News*.

### Regional Dairy Show . . .

SALT LAKE CITY — Utah dairy men are seeking to have the dairy division of the Utah State Fair given regional status, inviting entries from other western states and even from foreign countries. Under the plan of a regional show, premiums, already highest of any fair in the intermountain region, would be increased still higher. The Utah State Fair has one of the finest display barns in the west. —*San Juan Record*.

### Green River Bridge Rebuilt . . .

OURAY—Indian Service construction crews recently completed the rebuilding of the Ouray bridge over the Green River. This is the only bridge over the Green River between Jensen and Green River, Utah.—*Vernal Express*.

### DESERT QUIZ ANSWERS

The questions are on page 16

- 1—Phoenix.
- 2—Death Valley.
- 3—Pink.
- 4—Joshua Tree.
- 5—Coal mines.
- 6—Soapweed.
- 7—Santa Fe.
- 8—Acoma.
- 9—Salome, Arizona.
- 10—Dwelling house.
- 11—Death Valley.
- 12—Quartz.
- 13—Reg Manning.
- 14—New Mexico.
- 15—Yumas.
- 16—The Colorado Desert of Southern California.
- 17—Mojave River.
- 18—Tombstone, Arizona.
- 19—W. A. Chalfant.
- 20—Gallup, New Mexico.

## New Fee Schedule Established For Southwest National Parks

Fifteen-day automobile permits, for which visitors to national parks and monuments will pay the same fees formerly charged for annual permits, have been approved by Acting Secretary of the Interior Tudor. Annual permits will cost twice as much as before.

The new fee schedule, which will go into effect on June 8, 1953, is the first in which the one-time or short-term visitor is charged less than the repeater or the long-term visitor. The same differentials are also established for motorcycles and house trailers, and at Grand Canyon the charge will be \$1.00 for each vehicle for 15-day permits and \$2.00 each for annual permits.

Calling attention to the fact that, though certain new fees were added in 1939, there had been no general increase for the National Park System during the past 25 years, Acting Secretary Tudor declared that he had

acted to meet the requirements of Congress as expressed in Public Law 137, 82nd Congress. This provides in effect that the cost to the Government of providing visitor service and facilities should be met in part by fair and equitable fees, taking into consideration the cost to the Government and the value to the recipient. Assurance was given by Conrad L. Wirth, Director of the National Park Service, during hearings this spring before the Interior Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee that steps would be taken promptly to revise the fee schedule to provide an increase in revenues.

Establishment of both annual and 15-day fees is intended to provide an equitable differential between the one-time visitor who comes from a distance and the frequent visitor from near-by. Previously, visitors to these areas have paid for an annual permit, whether they entered only once a season or a dozen times.



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# Amateur Gem Cutter

By LELANDE QUICK, Editor of The Lapidary Journal

Ever since its beginning 16 years ago this magazine has featured the field trip for rocks and no one will ever be able to estimate the profound influence of these stories, with their accompanying maps, on the use of leisure time by the people of America, and particularly by the people of Southern California. It was one of these trips that started us on the glorious rockhound road; a little incident that changed the course of our whole life.

Almost anyone can look back upon a busy life and find a half dozen little incidents that seemed unimportant at the time but they became turning points in their lives.

A friend of ours was walking along the street one night in Portland, Oregon, when it began to rain. He ducked into the Portland library to escape the rain and found himself in the midst of an audience listening to a lecture on birds. The speaker was giving a lot of wrong information about the robin, saying that it belonged to the grosbeak or some other family. Our friend had the temerity to arise and remind the speaker that the robin is a thrush. This did not sit well with the speaker who unhesitatingly told our friend that maybe he could tell the folks about the birds. By that time he was just in the mood for it and he went to the platform and delivered a very fascinating story about the birds in Oregon.

The talk so impressed the audience that one lady offered him his supper and \$10.00 if he'd give the same talk the next evening after a supper at her church, as their programmed speaker had been taken ill. In no time at all the word got around and our friend soon had speaking engagements every night in the week. Soon he exhausted the forums of Portland and his subject but by that time he had enough money to do what he wanted to do—take a trip to Africa with a camera and get material for a serious platform career, upon which he was now determined. Since that night, when he called the robin a thrush, there is hardly a spot accessible to man to which he has not made a visit and reported upon it to audiences all over America. His name is Carveth Wells.

It was a minor incident such as this that changed our own life. We called upon a doctor in Chula Vista, California. The doctor was out on a call so we sat down in his waiting room to wait for him. Looking for something to read we spied a copy of the *Desert Magazine* for September 1938 on his table. We had never seen this magazine before and found it very interesting. We particularly liked an early story by John Hilton called "Turquoise on the Mojave."

This story fired our imagination and by the time we got home to Los Angeles we had made plans to go to the desert and bring home a few sacks full of this fine gem. A week and 200 miles later we found ourselves away out in the Joshua trees and miles from a paved road. Suddenly we realized with a great start that for the first time in our life we were really alone. No call for help would ever be heard. It scared us at first as it has scared untold thousands since that time. That is the moment when a person either decides he hates the desert or he loves it.

Needless to say we got mighty little turquoise. Thousands of people have gone to that spot since and we doubt if all of them together have brought back enough turquoise to fill the palm of one hand. The important thing is that it gave us two new interests in life—rocks and the desert. We later combined them with a way with words and now we find ourself publishing the leading magazine for all the people who love rocks and we publish it in the desert.

We sometimes wonder what would have happened if we had found plenty of turquoise and come home with enough to set us up in business. That has been the beginning of many a rockhound dealer and it will be for many more.

Many of the trips that have been mapped in *Desert Magazine* have been just as sterile, as far as gem gathering has been concerned. However the dividends paid in good health and fine experiences have always made up for any lack of gems. Many go to the good spots and soon they are no longer good, for the thousands who come to get their share usually take more than their share and then there is none.

We tell this because we have a doubt that perhaps we got into the wrong end of the business. We told about the fire agate to be found in Coon Hollow. We were not the first to mention this locality but we did publish a good article with an accompanying map about this locality. We recently saw an ad in another magazine where a man advertised fire agate for \$4.50 an ounce. Now that's \$72.00 a pound or \$14,400 a ton. Good fire agate is hard to get but for that kind of money we believe we could spend a pleasant week down in the Chocolate Mountains, less than 100 miles away, each Spring and Fall. If we brought home a ton each time we could have a nice \$25,000 a year income, after advertising and mailing expense. That's really not a bad business—if you can get the customers.

There isn't any agate in the world that's worth \$72.00 a pound in the rough. Even when it is all cut and polished into beautiful gems we doubt if there ever was a pound of agates worth that much.

We recently edited a manuscript about Montana moss agate in which the author claimed that many Montana agates were worth \$100 a slice. We edited that down to \$10 a slice and he didn't like it because he said he'd seen that price on slices in a dealer's shop. However, we stuck to our guns and said that the prices might have been on the slabs but that didn't make them worth \$100. After all, the greatest value in a piece of agate is the personal love that an owner has for it. If he regards that as worth \$100 then it's worth that to him and he will not sell it for less. That does not establish a sound market value of \$100 a slab however.

We do not wish to create a wrong impression about the many fine dealers in the business. We make our living from their advertising dollars and we know that these dealers, who have established themselves after years of enterprise, feel just as strongly as we do at the outrageous prices that some rockhounds place upon their finds. You will never find the established dealer selling agate for \$72.00 a pound.

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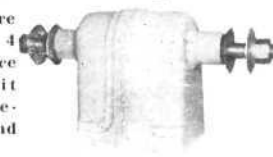


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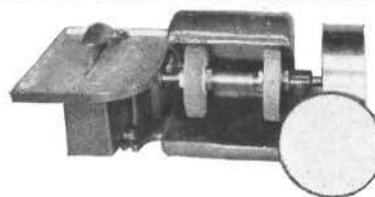
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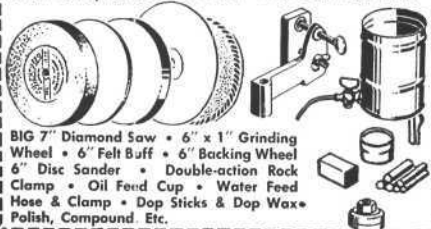
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# Gems and Minerals

## CLUB SEEKS URANIUM, TUNGSTEN, RARE EARTHS

The American Prospectors Club of Los Angeles, California, is a unique group of rockhounds, prospectors and amateur mineral detectors. The club was organized by Stanley P. Skiba and now is adding chapters throughout Southern California.

Club activities center around frequent field trips in search of tungsten, uranium and rare earth deposits or to pan gold in placer streams. A recent outing was to northern Nevada where members searched for quicksilver.

Monthly meetings offer speakers who discuss various phases of prospecting. Walt Bilicke demonstrated a high tension separator and explained the values of rare earth deposits along the coast at a recent meeting of the Redondo Beach chapter.

The club has purchased its own metal detectors, ultra-violet lights and geiger counters for the use of members. A scintillometer for airborne prospecting is the next planned acquisition. Several club members own planes and, with the scintillometer, could chart desert and mountain areas for future ground exploration by the club as a whole.

Those interested in learning more about the American Prospectors Club are invited to write c/o Postoffice Box 78395 West Adams Station, Los Angeles 16, California.

## FOURTH ANNUAL SHOW SET BY HERMOSA BEACH SOCIETY

South Bay Lapidary Society will hold its fourth annual show September 19 and 20 at Clark Stadium, 861 Valley Drive, Hermosa Beach, California. Doors will be open from noon until 10 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. Exhibits will range from mineral collections to cut and polished stones, facets and finished jewelry.

May program of Delvers Gem and Mineral Society, Downey, California, was a color film, “California and Her Resources.” A. C. Krause narrated.

Members of Shadow Mountain Gem and Mineral Society left Palm Desert, California, for the nearby San Jacinto Mountain resort of Idyllwild for its annual summer picnic.

## LAPIDARY ASSOCIATION SHOW NEARS; DISPLAYS READIED

An estimated 300 amateur exhibits will be on display at the First Annual Gem Show of the Lapidary Association of Southern California. The show will be held in Long Beach Municipal Auditorium August 14 through 16. Twelve member clubs are co-sponsors.

To carry out the show’s theme, “Lapidary Art Through the Ages,” Dr. Richard Swift will exhibit his collection of Babylonian, Egyptian, Greek, Roman and Renaissance lapidary art. Miss Ruth Simpson of Southwest Museum is preparing a display of American Indian lapidary craft, and Mexican gem work will be shown by Dr. Ralph Mueller of Phoenix. Dr. Chang Wen Ti has promised a working exhibit of ancient and modern Chinese lapidary art. Modern faceted gems will be displayed by Los Angeles collector William E. Phillips.

A complete working lapidary shop will be set up, to demonstrate methods of faceting and cutting cabochons and flats.

## SEPTEMBER DATES CHOSEN BY SAN FERNANDO VALLEY CLUB

San Fernando Valley Mineral and Gem Society has announced it will hold its annual show September 26 and 27. Displays of mineral, lapidary and jewelry collections will be arranged in the society’s regular meeting place—the Victory-Van Owen playground building, 12240 Archwood Street, North Hollywood, California.

## WHITTIER SOCIETY’S ANNUAL SHOW SLATED OCTOBER 17, 18

October 17 and 18 are the dates chosen by Whittier Gem and Mineral Society for this year’s show, to be held at Smith Memorial Hall, corner of College and Pickering Avenue in Whittier, California. Hours will be from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday; from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

Evansville Lapidary Society, Evansville, Indiana, has scheduled a weekly workshop for gemstone production. The group meets every Tuesday in the craft room at the Evansville YWCA.

Charles Schweitzer has visited Horse Canyon three times and is familiar with the better agate collecting areas. He spoke to Pasadena Lapidary Society at the meeting preceding a June field trip to the canyon site.

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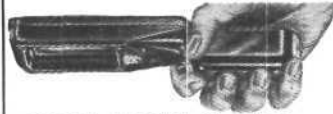
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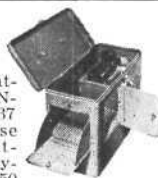
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**FOR SALE:** Beautiful purple petrified wood with uranium, pyrolusite, manganese. Nice sample \$1.00. Postage. Maggie Baker, Cameron, Arizona.

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**GEMS AND MINERALS,** collecting, gem-cutting. Illustrated magazine tells how, where to collect and buy, many dealer advertisements. Completely covers the hobby. The rockhound's own magazine for only \$2.00 a year (12 full issues) or write for brochure and booklist. Mineral Notes and News, Box 716B, Palmdale, California.

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**ATTENTION CUTTERS:** Tumbled agate nuggets and nodules. Finest quality. See what you are getting. \$2.00 brings assortment postpaid. Money refunded if not satisfactory. Clay Ledbetter, Stonecraft, 2126 McKenzie Ave., Waco, Texas.

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**DARK PEARLS** \$1.25, \$2.00, \$3.00 each. Natural Pearls not cultured. Ideal for collection or jewelry. Postpaid and guaranteed. L. K. Gulgud, 4770 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, California.

In the June issue of *Rockhounds Call*, Photographer Norman A. Moore told fellow members of Compton Gem and Mineral Club how to get good wildflower pictures. He advised selecting subjects which show contrast, photographing light flowers against dark backgrounds and *vice versa*, and shooting from close up. He recommended exposing colored film 1/50 second at f. 6.3 or f. 8 in open sunlight with the light behind the camera and shining on the subject.

Ray Lulling, lapidary editor of the Minnesota Mineral Club bulletin, *Rock Rustler's News*, has a tip for amateur gem cutters: "If you have any old eyeglass frames lying around the house, save them," he advises in the June issue. "They come in very handy as emergency bezel wire." Nickel, silver or gold frames are useable. "Knock out the glass and with a pair of tin shears or nippers cut the bezel on each side of the set screw that holds it together," Lulling directs. "Then cut the bezel off the nose piece and straighten it out. Each pair of eyeglasses will produce two pieces of bezel wire about five inches long of a perfect channel that you can wrap around your cabochon as a frame."

Meeting at the Chicago Academy of Sciences, members of Marquette Geologists Association heard H. R. Straight speak on "The Identification of Petrified Woods." Straight, past president of the Midwest Federation of Geological and Mineralogical Societies, has made an extensive study of paleobotany and has traveled throughout the United States, exploring known areas where petrified woods are to be found. Colored slides and specimens accompanied the lecture. Afterward, an auction was held.

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**OAK CREEK CANYON, ARIZONA.** At Sedona near Flagstaff and Jerome in Technicolor country, visit the Randolph Shop for specimens and fluorescents.

**BOOKS:** Beginners to advanced. Gemology, mineralogy, geology, etc. Write today for free price list. Gem Finders, 859 North Ramona, Hawthorne, California.



# Summer Ends Year for Many Societies; Elections Held

Ernest M. Stone was elected president of the East Bay Mineral Society at a May meeting in Oakland, California. Assisting him with next year's activities will be Dr. F. M. Yockey, vice-president; Mrs. Dennis Patterson, secretary; W. R. Watson, treasurer; and Sidney H. Smyth, director.

It's "President" Herbert Wagner in San Jose now. Wagner has been elected to head San Jose Lapidary Society next year. Other new officers who assumed duties in June are Milton Gillespie, vice-president; Alta Mason, secretary; Guy Gibbs, treasurer; and Alice Everett, editor of the group's monthly *Lap Bulletin*.

At the third annual dinner meeting of Palo Alto Geology Society, Mrs. Billie Santhoff was installed as president for the 1953-54 club season. Jerry Newcomer is new vice-president; Mrs. Edith Harmon, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Alice Condon, historian; Charlotte Matthews, program director; Robert E. McCulloch, field trip director; James C. Lewis, membership chairman, and Miss Mabel Barnard, curator. Program for the special meeting was presented by Ian D. Hendrickson, geologist, who delivered an illustrated lecture on igneous intrusions in the Mt. Fairweather range of Alaska.

Elected unanimously to serve Southwest Mineralogists, Los Angeles, next year, were the following nominees: Herman Hodges, president; Gordon Bailey, vice-president; Stella Hodges, recording secretary; Connie Trombatore, corresponding secretary; Cora Standridge, treasurer, and Louis Sears, Jack Lasley and Jack Craig, directors.

Coachella Valley Mineral Society's new officers are Glenn Vargas, president; Clifton Carney, vice-president; Dorothy Faulhaber, secretary; Glenn Thornburgh, Jr., treasurer, and Jerry Jorstad, member of the board. The society meets in Indio, California.

The end of another year was marked by installation ceremonies by the Gem and Mineral Society of San Mateo County, California. Taking office were Howell Lovell, president; Lloyd Underwood, vice-president; Mrs. Dorothea Luhr, secretary, and Burton Stuart, treasurer. Directors are Dr. Arthur Corbett, constitution; Wallace Degen, organizations; Mrs. Myrtle Reinhardt, education; Godfrey Beckman, finance; William Klose, program, and Alan Cormack, field trips.

Victor Armstrong received the Pasadena Lapidary Society presidential gavel at a May installation meeting. Oress Walker, vice-president; Beatrice Lidell, secretary, and Ralph Bond, treasurer, also took office.

Executive duties of Shadow Mountain Gem and Mineral Society, Palm Desert, California, will be handled next year by Byron S. Phillips, president; Joe Hughes, vice-president; Ruth Wright, recording secretary; Berniece Kiefer, corresponding secretary; Emily Hiatt, treasurer, and C. Grier Darlington, business manager. New directors to serve on the board for a three-year term are Henry Hiatt, Maurice Wright and Margaret Ward. Other directors who will continue to serve are Esther Edixon, Jack Lizer, Ray Purves, Mary Ann Wahrer, James Carpenter and Donald Butterworth.

Bill Hayward heads the new slate of Colorado Mineral Society, Denver. Elected to assist President Hayward are C. R. Williams, first vice-president; Olin Brown, second vice-president; Betty Wilklow, secretary-treasurer, and Ann Dill, corresponding secretary. The board of trustees includes James Hurlbut, Muriel Colburn, Richard Pearl, George Harvey, Calvin Simmons and E. Mitchell Gunnell.

Planning already for the resumption of Chicago Rocks and Minerals Society activities in September are the following new officers, elected at the June meeting: Helen L. Cooke, president; Alexander Leighton, vice-president; Margaret Gibson, recording secretary; Marilla Towne, corresponding secretary; Ralph Alberts, treasurer; Selma Jenner, curator-historian; Laverne Thomas, editor of the *Pick and Dop Stick*, and Dorothy Gleiser, associate editor of the bulletin. Program for the election meeting was given by E. A. Williams of Elkhart, Indiana, lapidary who fashioned the J. L. Kraft jade window for Chicago's North Shore Baptist Church.

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Contra Costa Gem and Mineral Society was the guest of Calaveras Gem and Mineral Society at a meeting at Angels Camp, California. The two groups took field trips in the Angels Camp area.

Redwood Gem and Mineral Society will exhibit again this year at the Sonoma County Fair, Santa Rosa, California. Fair dates are July 31 through August 8.

Twenty-one members of Clark County Gem Collectors joined a field trip outing to the Dead Mountain area east of Las Vegas, Nevada. June field trip was scheduled to Keyhole Canyon.

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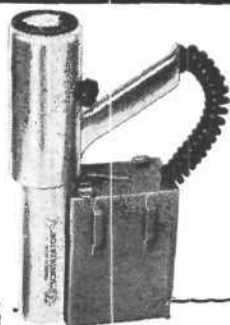
San Antonio Rock and Lapidary Society, San Antonio, Texas, invited John Gibson, geologist and gemologist, as its July speaker. Gibson, an instructor at San Antonio College, announced he would speak on crystallography and the formation of agate in west Texas.

Leather tooling, silver engraving and cabochons were among displays at a recent meeting of the Gem Cutters Guild, Los Angeles. An exhibit prepared by Jack and Dorothy Craig explained how oil is obtained from shale.

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Dr. C. R. Smith of Aurora College, Illinois, led a recent Chicago Rocks and Minerals Society field trip. After guiding members through the Aurora Historical Society museum, he pointed out geological facts at the Fox Valley gravel pit which provides a good view of the glacial and post-glacial sequence; at Mastodon Lake and at Nelson's Lake near Batavia. Stops also were made at prehistoric Indian mounds and the Kaneville Esker where glacial drift specimens were gathered. The trip ended at the Illinois State Game Farm at Yorkville.

Geodes are plentiful in Illinois, and seeking them is one of the favorite hobby pastimes of the Central Illinois Rockhounds, Decatur. The group held its first exhibit of collecting material in May and was proud of its visitor roster of more than 700 names.

Santa Fe Gem and Mineral Club members were advised to bring their geiger counters on a field trip to Petaca, where they would explore the properties of the Petaca Mining Corporation.

Summer meetings of Searles Lake Gem and Mineral Society, Trona, California, are outdoor potluck affairs. The season's custom was revived in July.

Father Joseph Lafferty, chaplain for Chapter 3 of Disabled American Veterans in San Francisco recently has placed a fine mineral display in a case at the library of the Letterman Army Hospital in San Francisco. Father Lafferty has been collecting specimens for 30 years, and has stated that he will provide displays for other veterans' hospitals if they are desired.

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A humorous debate, "Resolved: That Every Rockhound Should Lick Every Rock," entertained members of the El Paso Mineral and Gem Society at a recent meeting in El Paso, Texas. The issue, presented by H. L. Zollars, was debated by Emil Mueller, Mr. McAntire and Grace Zollars, negative; Zollars, Sparky Quinn and Hortense Newell, affirmative.

Concluding a program series on "Beginnings of History," members of the Oklahoma Mineral and Gem Society enjoyed two sound films: "The Bronze Age" and "The Iron Age." Movies also were scheduled for the June meeting.

Chester Collins, geological engineer for the U. S. Geological Survey, spoke at a recent meeting of Sacramento Mineral Society, Sacramento, California. His subject was "Aids and Methods Used in Prospecting for Ores and Minerals." He demonstrated detecting equipment.

First field trip of the Evansville Lapidary Society left Evansville, Indiana, June 7 for a day of exploring Wyandotte Cave. George Jackson acted as guide. Later, some members visited the flint deposits in another part of Harrison County, where prehistoric Indians worked quarries for arrowhead and tool material.

The rose window constructed by San Jose Lapidary Society was the hit of its 1953 show, held in San Jose, California. Suggested club project now is to build a clubhouse-workshop around the window.

A joint trip was planned by the Gem Collectors Guild of Seattle, Washington, and the Vancouver club to the petrified wood and agate fields near Lytton, B.C. Canada.

A field trip to Fish Lake Valley was planned for June by the Mineral County Rockhound Club of Hawthorne, Nevada. A side trip to Candelaria was promised those who joined the early morning trip section.

More than 100 rockhounds joined the mineral-hunting caravan when the Golden Spike Gem and Mineral Society of Ogden, Utah, and the Wasatch Gem Society of Salt Lake City staged a joint field trip. On the two-day outing to the dinosaur graveyard near Green River and a nearby agate area, members found dinosaur bone, agate and red, green and yellow jasper.

Members of Columbian Geological Society, Spokane, Washington, were grieved to learn of the death of Charles D. Magee, charter member, director and past president of the society. He was active as field trip chairman and program coordinator.

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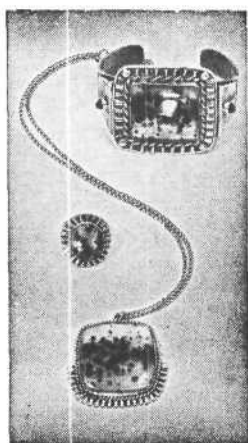
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Colored slides of Canyon de Chelly, the upper end of the Grand Canyon, were shown members of San Diego Lapidary Society at a recent meeting. The canyon contains a wide variety of rock formations.

Grab bags, sale tables and a mineral auction were scheduled highlights at the June meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California, Pasadena.

Washoe Gem and Mineral Society, Reno, Nevada, heard Dr. E. Richard Larson, chairman of the geology department at the University of Nevada, speak on "Collecting Fossils in Nevada," and were inspired for a field trip to Yerington to search for garnetized fossils in shale. In addition to fine fossil specimens, members found copper ores on the McConnell Mine dump.

San Diego Mineral and Gem Society published a busy June calendar. Dr. Spencer Rogers, professor of anthropology at San Diego State College, was to speak on archeological methods at the society's general meeting; Georgia Byers' pictures of a mule trip down Bright Angel trail into the Grand Canyon were planned for the mineral resources division; fluorescent pictures and a talk on pearls were anticipated by gem and lapidary division members; and members of the mineralogy division would entertain one another with accounts of vacation trips. The June field trip was to be to the Fargo Mine at Pala, California.

To illustrate his talk, "Gem Stones and Their Ancient Beliefs," Speaker Bob White asked members of the Northern California Mineral Society, San Francisco, to bring heirloom gems or jewelry and tell their histories and sentimental values.

"Are You Missing Any Bets?" was the title of an editorial in the June issue of the *M.G.A. Bulletin*, periodical of the Marquette Geologists Association of Chicago. G. G. Putman advised mineral society members to take advantage of every opportunity to increase their collections and further their mineralogical studies. He suggested frequent visits to the State Museum, State Geological Society, public museums and libraries as well as active participation in club and federation affairs.

Hal Pearsall, field trip chairman of the San Jose Lapidary Society, promised good hunting on a June outing to Clear Creek, California.

Marquette Geologists Association of Chicago invited Mr. and Mrs. Paul Heyse to present the June program. The Heyses, who have made extensive studies of Mexican handcraft, planned to discuss "The Lapidaries and Silversmiths of Mexico." The June meeting was the last of the club year.

Prof. Kottowski, economic geologist with the New Mexico State Bureau of Mines, illustrated with colored slides his discussion of "The Geology of the Rio Grande Valley." He delivered the lecture at a recent meeting of Dona Ana County Rockhounds Club, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

When the scheduled speaker was unable to appear, Jack Streeter spoke extemporaneously to the Hollywood Lapidary Society on the history of mineral collecting, the advantages of the hobby and his own experiences on a collecting tour of Brazil.

Tour Director Nate Stuvetro scheduled an agate hunting trip for the Minnesota Mineral Club in June. The rockhunting caravan would visit Little Falls, about 30 miles northwest of Minneapolis.

Coachella Valley Mineral Society of Indio, California, invited the Blythe rockhounds and the San Geronimo Mineral and Gem Society to this year's annual barbecue at Salton Sea. Many members planned to camp overnight and enjoy chuckwagon breakfast the following morning.

Hubert L. Kertz discussed technical uses of specialized crystals in the communications industry at a meeting of the Gem and Mineral Society of San Mateo County, California. Piezoelectric crystals that have electric characteristics are important ingredients of telephone apparatus, and for many years attempts have been made to grow crystals of this type for use in electronic circuits. Kertz told of the advances made by the Bell Telephone Company in its crystal research program.

Thomas Warren demonstrated fluorescent materials and equipment at the May meeting of the Glendale Lapidary and Gem Society, Glendale, California.

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Hopeful of finding rhodonite and nephrite specimens for their collections, members of Long Beach Mineral and Gem Society looked forward to a June field trip to Willow Creek and Jade Cove, not far from San Luis Obispo, California.

One of the summer highlights of San Fernando Valley Mineral and Gem Society was the June picnic supper and auction.

Oral Miller led a Glendale Lapidary and Gem Society field trip to Horse Canyon, California, to search for agate.

A talk by Dr. Hoover Mackin, professor of geology at the University of Washington, was scheduled for June by Everett Rock and Gem Club, Everett, Washington. Dr. Mackin planned to speak on "Strategic Minerals of the United States." Members of the Maplewood Rockhound Club were invited as special guests.

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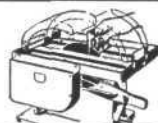
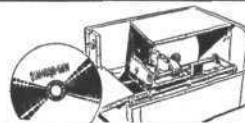
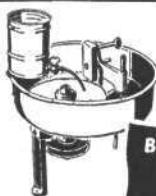
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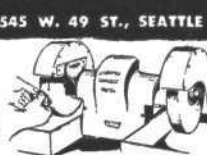
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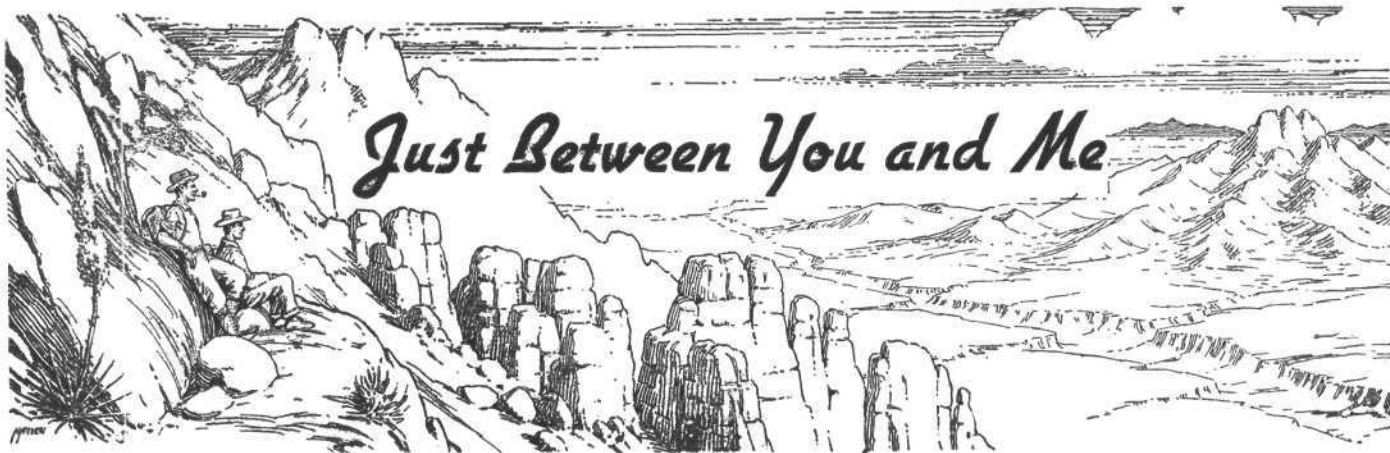
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By RANDALL HENDERSON

**P**ROBABLY NO branch of the U. S. federal government has been the target of more criticism during the last 50 years than the Indian Service.

Many of us have blamed the Indian Bureau for the impoverished economy on most of the reservations, for failure to build schools, and for many things which seemed to be wrong with the management of Indian affairs.

The Indians themselves also have been very critical. They were so mad at Commissioner John Collier it was hazardous for him to visit some of the reservations, and the commissioners who have followed him have never found it possible to win the complete approval of the tribesmen.

The Indian Bureau has been between the devil and the deep sea. They've had you and me sniping at them from one side, and the Indians throwing rocks at them from the other. They haven't gotten thanks from anyone.

Actually, the men and women in the Indian Service have had a tough job to do—and they have plodded along with the limited funds that a stingy Congress would give them, doing the best they could.

It is a real pleasure, then, for me to record the magnificent job done by the personnel of the Indian Service on the Colorado River Reservation at Parker, Arizona. I went there recently to make a progress report on the Mojaves, Chemehuevis, Navajos and Hopis now living on the Parker reservation (page 6-11, this issue.) I was amazed at what I found there. In a period of 40 years those Colorado River Indians have become first class farmers, acquired comfortable home and automobiles, and are insisting that their children have good schools.

The Indians did not achieve the transformation from primitive tribesmen to successful farmers within one generation without a great deal of effective coaching from the men and women in Uncle Sam's Indian Bureau. And for that, the Indian Service deserves a full measure of credit.

\* \* \*

Good news from my old home town of Calexico, California!

The Calexico folks have voted to resume the annual presentation of the Desert Cavalcade next spring—after omitting the pageant this year due to financial difficulties and the feeling that perhaps the public was not appreciative of the tremendous effort required to stage this all-home-talent historical spectacle.

People living on the desert today have practically all the comforts and luxuries enjoyed by Americans in the most highly developed metropolitan areas—plus air-conditioned homes. Those things are possible in the remote and sparsely settled desert Southwest because there were men and women of an earlier generation with the vision

and courage to do a heroic job of pioneering—for compensation that was measured more in terms of personal satisfaction than in dollars.

It is stimulating to witness a historical pageant so magnificently presented as has been done in years past by the people of Calexico and Mexicali in their Desert Cavalcade, and I am glad it is to be resumed.

\* \* \*

In Italy a law has been passed for the defense of the Italian landscape in the resort areas. The ministerial committee responsible for the enforcement of the law is devoting its attention to the removal of signboards along the highways in the areas to which the law is applicable.

In U.S.A. we also have a billboard problem, and recently another headache which is becoming even more critical—the problem of beer cans and trash along the roadside gutters. Since the beer can nuisance first was mentioned in *Desert Magazine* I have received many scores of letters from motorists who share my indignation over the manner in which the roadsides are becoming cluttered with garbage—and many ideas have been advanced for solving the problem. A feasible answer has not yet been forthcoming—but I did like one reader's suggestion. He proposed that those vandals who carry on small arms target practice by shooting up the road signs as they ride along the highways, should henceforth select the roadside beer cans as their targets.

\* \* \*

There must be at least a half million people in the United States writing poetry. I am judging from the number of poems we receive at this office every month. We can print only a small fraction of those which come to us. Some of the poetry is very bad. A great deal of it is passably good—and for lack of space we have to return some which deserves to be published.

Once in a while there comes to my desk a verse which I would like to have engraved in stone so that it would never be lost. Such a poem is *Indigo Bush*, sent to *Desert Magazine* recently by Vada F. Carlson of Winslow, Arizona. She wrote:

*Beside the desert road, a shaggy bush,  
Ignored by thousands and admired by none,  
Grows meekly until April comes, and some  
Perceptive souls arrive.  
Then like a fairy princess, long bewitched,  
Touched by a wand, finds freedom from her spell,  
A force within the bush begins to swell  
And from each dusty twig  
Burst forth airy blooms of deepest indigo;  
As though to prove how living is a God  
Who builds into each plant, each stone, each clod,  
A beauty all its own.*



# Books of the Southwest

## SAM BRANNAN AND THE CALIFORNIA MORMONS

*Sam Brannan and the California Mormons* by Paul Bailey is more than the biography of Sam Brannan, California's first millionaire, a man who was elected overwhelmingly to California's first legislature and then renounced the honor. Woven through the life story of Brannan is the tale of California's debt to the Mormons, those intrepid followers of Joseph Smith and Brigham Young who opened up the first highways, took part in the American conquest of Mexican California, shared in the discovery of gold in California and later pioneered in the adoption of irrigation farming by Anglo Saxon people.

This book is the result of immense research and presents a fascinating account of the mid years of the 19th century which opened up the miraculous West.

Sam Brannan was one of the faithful Mormons who were expelled from Ohio and Missouri. He was leader of the group who sailed around the Horn on the old *Brooklyn* and landed at Yerba Buena, the sleepy Mexican forerunner of San Francisco, just a few days too late to aid in wresting it from the Mexicans. He fell in love with California and was bitterly disappointed when Brigham Young firmly determined to establish the new Zion in the Salt Lake valley. Sam tried to persuade him to trek on to the golden land beside the Pacific and when he failed, returned to San Francisco to become a power in the new community with untold wealth pouring in upon him from shops, mills, wharves, hotels and countless other ventures which the finding of gold mushroomed into existence. As Sam grew in wealth, he withdrew more and more from any connection with Mormonism.

Stirring chapters tell of the incredible march of the Mormon Battalion through the southwest desert wastes, the planning of San Bernardino as a Mormon city and its later abandonment by the church when the tide of western hatred of the Mormons grew and the government sent troops against them in the Salt Lake valley. The reader will gain a comprehensive picture of all that the Mormons accomplished in those early beginnings of westward expansion.

Brannan's wife divorced him and in the forced sale of his farflung holdings

to satisfy the court's decree, he became penniless. An abortive attempt to found a grandiose colony in Mexico's Sonora failed, his last great dream. He died, lonely and in poverty, in Escondido, California. A fabulous character in a fabulous era—and with, seemingly, the usual end of men who grasp too greedily for riches and power. Probably those in the faith which he forsook in his days of glory would say that his end was fitting.

This is a second and limited edition of a book first published by the author in 1943. The new edition has been enlarged by new material to twice its original wordage.

Published by Westernlore Press, Los Angeles. 263 pp. with index, bibliography and illustrations. \$4.00.

## NEW INFORMATION ABOUT ARIZONA INDIAN TRIBES

It was between 10,000 and 20,000 years ago that man first came to the Southwest, but it was not until about the year 1 A.D. that the art of pottery making was developed and the Indian cultures as we know them today had their beginning.

These are conclusions published in an informative report, *Indians of the Southwest*, recently compiled by the

Bureau of Ethnic Research at the University of Arizona.

Not only does the report trace briefly the geographical and historical backgrounds of the Indians in Arizona today, but it contains a great deal of heretofore unpublished information as to the present numbers and economic status of the tribesmen.

The greatest concentration of Indians in the United States is in New Mexico and Arizona, and of the 120,000 tribesmen in these two states 70,000 of them are in Arizona.

Fourteen tribes are described in the book: Apaches, Navajos, Papagos, Mojaves, Chemehuevis, Yumas, Cocopas, Hualapais, Yavapais, Pimas, Maricopas, Kaibab Putes, Havasupais and Hopis. The information about them was obtained by field surveys and from the various Indian Service agencies.

For the student of Southwest Indians who wants a brief summarization of essential information about these tribesmen, this book is the most comprehensive yet published.

Published by the University of Arizona and edited by William H. Kelly. 130 pp. with maps. Paper cover, \$1.50.

A limited deluxe edition of William Caruthers' *Loafing Along Death Valley Trails* has been announced by the author. The regular edition of the book is now in its second printing. The deluxe volume which is really a third edition, retails for \$8.95.

Books reviewed on this page are available at Desert Crafts Shop, Palm Desert

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